

# Libraries

(A Continuation of Public Libraries)

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## Problems Involved in the Organization and Administration of the Hoover War Library<sup>1</sup>

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The World War has an importance which transcends that of any other phenomenon in modern history. It marks a definite break with the past and the beginning of a new era. The consequences of this great conflict will be significant in the lives of men thruout many generations. Controversies as to the origin of the war promise to go on indefinitely. Its causes were complex and remote. The general subject will long engage the attention of scholars in history, economics, and political science. Conclusions are already being drawn with regard to various aspects of the World War. Such conclusions are likely to be distorted and essentially unsound. Our generation is too near the vent to view it in a proper perspective. The years immediately following a major phenomenon in human history may well be designated as the *myopic period*.

Every library is concerned with a duality of time projection. The literature of the past must be gathered for present use; that of the present for the study of scholars yet unborn. This latter obligation as regards the World War is being met by many libraries in a limited way; three great libraries are concentrating their attention upon this problem to the exclusion of all others—in France,

the *Musée de Guerre*; in Germany, the *Weltskriegsbucherei*; in the United States, the Hoover War library.

The scope of the latter library includes: 1) printed and manuscript material relating to the economic, political, military, and naval aspects of the World War, 2) printed and manuscript material relating to the immediate and remote causes thereof, 3) printed and manuscript material relating to the immediate and remote results thereof, and 4) printed and manuscript material relating to such subjects as the League of Nations, Fascism, Bolshevism, disarmament, treaties, the administration of mandated international conferences, reparations, etc.

The collections of the Hoover War library now exceed 65,000 volumes and as many manuscripts together with many newspapers, broadsheets, posters, engravings, maps, medals, and miscellaneous items. This may suggest that a considerable advance towards completion has already been made. This, however, is not true. The experience gained by the directors and staff of the library has resulted in a general agreement that all plans for the future must be based upon the assumption that the collections will ultimately reach 250,000 volumes. This assumption may be in error altho there is no reason to anticipate that it will prove to be too large.

<sup>1</sup> Given at the University and Reference Librarians' section of the A. L. A. Midwinter meeting, Chicago, December 30, 1930.

The present library has resources in the general field of World War history, economics, and political science unrivalled elsewhere altho in particular aspects the other war libraries, previously referred to, are somewhat superior.

The problems involved in the organization and administration of such a great special library are without precedent in library science. Three types of problem have been met, i. e., personnel, material, and use. Some of these have apparently been solved, others remain for solution in the light of experience.

It was early recognized that, as to personnel, two requirements were fundamental. Staff-members must possess exceptional language equipment and some capacity for orientation in world history. Ability consequent upon training or experience in the special field could not be hoped for. This has resulted in the formation of a staff from 1) those trained in general library science, and 2) those trained in historical research. After 12 years, a group of "war librarians" has been developed. That the language problem has been largely met is indicated by the statement that the present staff (including certain members of the staff of the University library) is now able to handle both cataloging and reference work in the following languages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Greek, Hebrew, Chinese, Russian, Czech, Roumanian, Hungarian, Polish and Arabic. The great number of manuscripts already acquired has necessitated consideration of problems with which few American librarians have been concerned. The Hoover War library is in part an international archives. It will eventually include all of the records of the Commission for Relief in Belgium and the American Relief Administration. These archives are already at the University. For the first time it is possible here to announce the acquisition of the

war records of the American Red Cross, in part, with the expectation that eventually these will be supplemented by others from the same source. Notable foreign archives have been acquired which are not yet available for use or discussion. Miscellaneous manuscripts including private correspondence, memoranda, and diaries are steadily reaching the library.

Thru the coöperation and courtesy of Dr. Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, the reference librarian of the Hoover War library was assigned to the Manuscript division of the Library of Congress for six months during 1929. The experience there gained will be invaluable in the organization of the manuscripts in the Hoover War library. A liberal policy has been adopted in making it possible for staff-members to acquire training in subjects useful to their work. One cataloger has been given a leave of absence to work upon a bibliography of Alsace-Lorraine, another has been permitted to attend university instruction in Russian.

The Hoover War library is a separate entity under the general control of a board of directors which determines its policies. The chairman of this board takes an active part in acquisitional activities and has control of the library's research program. The director of the University libraries is responsible for the organization and administration of the library and is a member of the board of directors. The library has its own librarian. The director of the University libraries is charged also with coordinating the work of the Hoover War library with that of the other libraries of the University and with the cataloging, classification, and purchase of its acquisitions.

The literature with which this library is concerned is peculiar in that it is world-wide and consequently in many languages. Only a small part of its present holdings have been acquired thru

usual trade channels. All of the manuscript material and much of the printed material may be considered as fugitive. The collection of this type of literature is impossible if procrastination is permitted to enter into the program. Acquisition must be accelerated lest opportunity be lost. This necessarily implies that accessions will reach the library, for a time, much more rapidly than it is possible to catalog and classify them with a limited staff. It is expected that the increase in the library will mount annually over a period of perhaps 20 years and ultimately diminish almost to a vanishing point.

The documentary section of the library now comprises practically a complete collection of such publications for all of the countries for the period of the war. The majority of these files are being continued for the post-war period either in the Hoover War library or in the Documents division of the University library. The entries for Russian documents have been photostated *in toto* for inclusion in the forthcoming *Union List of Foreign Government Serials*.

An effort has been made to acquire complete files of all periodicals published in the combatant countries together with those of the more important neutral countries during the years of the war. Newspaper files have been obtained likewise for these years representing the more important cities of Europe and the United States, and various viewpoints.

A limited number of these newspapers are still being subscribed to. The library's subscription list is still very complete for all journals likely to contain economic, political, or historical material relating to the World War and reconstruction. These activities have resulted in making available at Stanford University exceptional facilities for the study of contemporary international affairs.

The fact has been referred to previously that only a small part of the library's acquisitions come to it thru trade

channels. The Order division of the University library, which handles such transactions (the Hoover War library has its own staff-members assigned to this work in the division), has established contacts with publishers and book-sellers in many out-of-the-way places. This has given an exceptional opportunity for acquiring unusual and frequently fascinating experience.

Realizing that many items were only to be acquired by personal effort, the Hoover War library has been represented abroad by curators in Belgium, Canada, Mexico, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Jugo-Slavia, Roumania, Poland, and Palestine. Individual directors have made collecting trips to Germany, France, Belgium, Mexico, Italy, Poland, and Russia. Exchange relations have been maintained with other libraries and institutions in all parts of the world. Our Russian collections are exceptionally rich as a result of the visits of the late Dr. Frank Golder to that country and to our intimate association with the Central Book Chamber in Moscow. Representatives other than directors including a number of professors at the University have devoted part of their time while abroad to collecting material of interest in Turkey, Morocco, Spain, Greece, Palestine, and South America.

Diplomatic and consular officers of the United States have frequently been of great service in obtaining for us material not otherwise available. The notable collection of propaganda made by the late Dr. E. D. Adams at the Paris Peace conference has been fully described elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

It has been evident with the growth of the Hoover War library that existing cataloging practice is inadequate for the objectives to be obtained. Careful study is being given to this problem and certain preliminary conclusions will be published in the near future. The purpose of a

<sup>1</sup> Stanford University publications. Hoover War library. *Bibliographical Series*. I. 1926.

library catalog is primarily to reveal to the reader the resources of a collection within a definite field. This implies that the catalog be prepared with the user always in mind. It would seem to follow that since there is a wide variation between the needs and interests of groups of readers that there would be an equally wide variation in the character of catalogs. Unfortunately this has not been true in the past. One modern catalog is likely to be much like another; inflexible standardization has impeded progress. The subject-matter of research in the field occupied by the Hoover War library will in most cases involve a single narrow phase of some political or economic aspect of the war, narrow in a sense relative to the general subject. Under such conditions subject entries even tho made with a liberality that may seem profligate will not meet the requirements of such reason.

Even exhaustive analytics could not be relied upon under these conditions and their preparation would involve time and expense without compensating assurance of ultimate value. Reliance will necessarily be placed upon main entries under authors. General subject entries will be made as well. To unlock the infinite resources of the library, however, the catalog must be supplemented by other bibliographical apparatus. Two types of accessory catalogs are already definitely seen to be necessary. 1) One containing entries referring to events chronologically by year, by month, by day, and if desirable by hour, correlated geographically. Typical entries of this character would take the form:

Berlin. 1916. June 18.

Paris. 1915. May 23. 10 a.m.

The purpose of such entries will be more apparent to the librarian who has handled thousands of war items specifically referring to events in space-time than to the general librarian familiar

with the subject references in the ordinary dictionary catalog. The need for such an extension in cataloging practice has already been recognized by a few historians.

2) The systematic publication of bibliographies prepared either by staff bibliographers or as research projects by users of the library.

Many minor problems are involved in the organization of the library including the preservation of newspapers and other printed matter upon inferior paper, the binding of exceptionally large collections of pamphlets, the provision of photostatic service, translation service, etc.

A number of major problems involving the protection of rare items, both printed and manuscript, and the conditions under which such material shall be used, need thoughtful consideration.

The Hoover War library will have a research staff as well as an administrative one. Two affiliated organizations already exist, i. e., the Russian Revolution Institute and the German Revolution Institute. Graduate work will be carried on in connection with the University departments. Investigators may be expected to resort to the library from other institutions at home and abroad. Independent writers will want to make use of its facilities. All of these factors present problems with which the administrative staff is concerned only indirectly.

The library now occupies quarters in the University library building. Plans are under way, however, for the erection of a separate library building for the Hoover War library. These contemplate the provision of an unusually large number of individual studies with comparatively limited reading-room accommodation. Other features include provision for the manuscripts, exhibition-rooms, and suitable conference-rooms for the staff.



**William Coolidge Lane, 1859-1931**

Wm. Stetson Merrill, *The John Crerar library, Chicago*

Less than three years ago the Editor of *LIBRARIES* extended to Librarian Lane of Harvard University greetings upon the completion of his 30 years of service with that institution, and expressed the hope that he would live to enjoy for many years to come space for congenial labors. Too brief was to be that afternoon of life. On March 18 he died after a prolonged illness.

William Coolidge Lane was born in Newton, Massachusetts, July 29, 1859. Thru his father he was descended from Ann Hutchinson of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Thru his mother he traced his line to John Coolidge of Watertown, Massachusetts, to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins. In 1877, when he was entering Harvard College, he and his mother went to live in a house at 19 Orchard Street, Cambridge; and in that house, 53 years later, he died. This simple home, embowered in trees and shrubbery, secluded from the changing city around it, suited well his studious habits and sheltered the serenity of his home life, for many years with his devoted mother and later with his family.

He was a brilliant student in college and attained the coveted Phi Beta Kappa key. He was secretary of the Harvard chapter of that society, 1889-1919. Soon after his graduation in 1881 he entered the College library, then under the direction of Justin Winsor. The degree of A. M. was later conferred upon him.

The catalog and classification of the library were in a formative stage, and Lane plunged into a thoro study of methods of rendering them most effective. He attended the Lake George conference of the American Library Association in 1885, where he reported upon several new schemes for classifying books. In the following year he was

ready to report upon a plan for rendering the somewhat intricate subject catalog of the Harvard library more usable. The index that he prepared for that purpose contained "the fullest list of topics for catalogue headings yet published," he stated; it was a pioneer in the field to be entered later by the A. L. A. and the Library of Congress.

Meanwhile he had begun to prepare for publication, in the series of Harvard bibliographical contributions, what he called an "Index to recent reference lists," a kind of gleanings of bibliographical lists issued by various libraries and in books. Four issues appeared between 1884 and 1890, the latest containing 1,000 references. "The Dante collections in the Harvard College and Boston public libraries" appeared in 1885 and was reprinted in 1890. "The Carlyle collection, a catalogue of books on Oliver Cromwell and Frederick the Great bequeathed by Thomas Carlyle," followed in 1888; and this again by a catalog of the Treat collection on ritualism and doctrinal theology in 1889. In 1892 he and Charles K. Bolton issued "Notes on special collections in American libraries."

The World's Fair conference of the American Library Association made the first general survey of library practice, and Lane reported upon cataloging: "points which may be considered settled" and "points upon which opinion is divided." He was then librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, having been called to succeed Charles Ammi Cutter in the preceding April.

Scholarship, precision, and professional knowledge had been shown unmistakably in Lane's bibliographical work and he was selected to head the Publishing section of the A. L. A. In the years that

followed, some of the now standard publications of that body were to appear. A work of greater magnitude, however, was taking over in February 1898, from the Library Bureau, the printing of analytical cards for periodical publications, a service to American libraries that was to continue until the material was by agreement transferred to the Readers' Guide Supplement in 1915. But greater responsibilities were in store for him. Justin Winsor died in 1897 and Lane was chosen to succeed him in April 1898, and in the same year the Association elected him president.

One event of his administration as president stands out—an event fraught with much future benefit to American libraries. John Russell Young, Librarian of Congress, died, and there at once arose rumors of a movement to make the position a "political plum." Lane saw clearly the duty of the Association to offer advice to the President of the United States, who was to make the next appointment, upon "perhaps the only position in the country in regard to which this Association had a right to offer advice," as he said at the time. A personal interview was seen to be necessary and Lane, introduced by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, was presented to President McKinley. The qualifications necessary in the man who should become head of the Congressional library were laid before the President, no doubt with that urbanity, clearness of statement, and force of reasoning in which Lane excelled. No name was suggested; but Herbert Putnam was appointed Librarian of Congress.

Many honors were bestowed upon William Coolidge Lane. He became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; he was a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society. Contributions from his pen appeared in

the printed proceedings of these societies. He was a member of the American Library Institute; he was president of the Bibliographical Society of America, 1904-1909. An interest in Dante that he acquired while in college persisted thruout his life, and he was librarian of the Dante Society in Cambridge for many years. "The A. L. A. portrait index," prepared under his supervision and edited by himself and Nina E. Browne, was published by the Library of Congress in 1906. He advocated in 1908 "a central bureau of information and loan collection for college libraries," a project that he lived to see realized upon even broader lines than he had envisioned by the "Project B" now conducted at the Library of Congress by Dr. Richardson. After the expiration of his term of office as president he continued to act upon several important committees of the Association: Permanent headquarters, International relations, Coördination.

As early as 1900 he began to urge, in his annual reports as librarian of Harvard, the crying need of a new and larger building. Fifteen years later that need was filled and in a measure undreamed of in earlier years. Mrs. Widener of Philadelphia offered to build for the University a suitable home for the valuable collection of books formed by her son and given to Harvard. On Commencement Day 1915 the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial library was dedicated amid much rejoicing. Lane had shown his practical organizing ability thru the trying period during which over 600,000 volumes housed in the old Gore Hall were transferred to temporary quarters, and later moved to the new building; and the books were available at every stage of their progress.

The Ebeling collection of maps possessed by the Harvard library has long been known to students of cartography. An edition of the Letters of Christoph Daniel Ebeling, prepared by Lane, was

published by the American Antiquarian Society in 1926. This and a chapter contributed by him to Samuel Eliot Morison's *Development of Harvard College 1869-1929* seem to have been the last writings from his pen.

Lane was a believer in tested progress; he was no idle experimenter and no proposer of startling novelties. He was a wise and prudent conservative. His manner with men and women was that of a polished gentleman, attentive, courteous, dignified yet cordial, with a suggestion of reserve. The quality of his professional work was fundamental, never superficial, well balanced and fair to opinions that might differ from his

own. He might disagree but he never disparaged. He spoke and wrote with the assurance that comes from knowledge and experience of that of which he treated. Lane came into the profession of library work at a time when the main lines of progress had been laid down by the pioneers, Winsor, Poole, Cutter, Dewey, not to mention others; Lane looked ahead along those lines toward the ends to be attained, and strove to multiply and improve and render more efficient the means of attaining those ends.

Mr. Lane is survived by his widow, Bertha Palmer, and by two daughters, Margaret Lane and Mrs. Milton Lord.

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## Letters—Information and Discussion

### Library Card Mystery

Editor, *LIBRARIES*:

We are trying to identify a young man whose body was found in the river here. In his pocket were two library cards bearing the inscription: "Harry Gordon—76 Third Street—No. 19977—issued December 22, 1929 and expires December 31, 1932."

Neither state nor city is printed on the card but we feel that perhaps some reader of *LIBRARIES* might recognize the notation and give us a lead that would trace the address of the borrower's friends or relatives.

*Toledo Blade*      URBAN T. MURPHY  
Toledo, Ohio      Assistant city editor

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### Foreign Posters for Display

The small sum of 25 cents sent to the National Association of book publishers, 347 Fifth Avenue, New York, will bring interesting travel book posters and display signs for library exhibits during the Spring months—the time when everyone's fancy turns to other scenes and foreign shores.

### An Appeal for Books

A recent fire at the Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, North Carolina, completely destroyed the library and all its contents. In order to re-establish the library so that the institution may hold its rating as a standard college, it is necessary to secure immediate assistance. Any gift of books will be greatly appreciated, and liberal donations are solicited. The College will pay carriage charges on any quantity of books.

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### The Seminar in Mexico

The Sixth Seminar in Mexico will be held in Mexico City, July 4-24. During the past five years over 400 men and women of the United States have attended the Seminars where they have met influential Mexican citizens and discussed the cultural, educational, and economic forces in Mexican life.

Among the leaders of round tables this year are Judge Florence Allen of the Ohio Supreme Court; Carleton Beals, author of *Mexico: an interpretation*; Dr. Charles W. Hackett of the Univer-

sity of Texas; Dr. Eyler Simpson of the Institute of Current World Affairs; and Dr. Frank Tannenbaum, author of *The Mexican agrarian revolution*. Upon request special trips made under competent leaders, will be conducted to points of interest from July 24 to August 7. For further particulars address Hubert C. Herring, executive director, 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

#### **Fitzroy née Pfutzenreuter<sup>1</sup>**

To the Editor, LIBRARIES:

Illustrated editions of high school classics, by Edwin M. Fitzroy, published by the A. L. A., is a reprint of the same work issued in mimeograph form by the University of Illinois, where it was submitted by the author in 1925 in the Seminar course (Library 15) University of Illinois library school. Discovering my careless re-order, I am writing in the hope that this note will spare others a similar error.

ADA F. LIVERIGHT  
Librarian

Pedagogical library  
Philadelphia, Penn.

#### **Library Reorganization in Russia**

At the invitation of the People's Commissariat for Education, Narkompros, Russia, Harriet G. Eddy, former county library organizer for the California State library, is making her second visit to Russia to observe library organization and to offer suggestions for its improvement. On her first visit three years ago, Miss Eddy found an admirable distribution of libraries over the entire country, but no "unified system" or coöperation which resulted in endless duplication of books and methods.

When the coöperation of all libraries was proposed two years ago, Mrs. Anna Kravtchenko, at present director of the Library Institute at Moscow, came to

America to study library organization. Since her return the first unified library at Orekhovo-Zuevo has been organized and is making great headway. All separate units in the town have been combined into one county organization, and unified service is now starting for the villages, collective and state farms. Plans are also in the making to organize other county libraries. Even the special libraries, and their name is legion, are admitting the need of their being a part of the system.

#### **New York County Library Bill**

A county library bill providing for the distribution of books to 1,570,494 persons scattered thruout the rural sections of the state of New York is now before both houses and appears to be definitely taking shape. It has the endorsement of the New York library association and practically every other educational and rural organization in the state.

The bill, which at present carries no immediate money appropriation, will open the way for state aid and adequate local support for county reading centers. It gives the county supervisors the right to appoint county boards of library trustees who would designate the location of the headquarters and appoint librarians to take charge of both the central library and its several branches and the travel service. It also permits the board of trustees, as an alternative to setting up a new library, to enter into contract with an already established library to furnish books for rural sections. According to the bill no county would be required to adopt a county library unless its board of supervisors chose to do so.

County library service, according to statistics, is now established in 225 counties and 35 states of the Union, but in New York state only three counties are equipped to circulate books in rural sections.

<sup>1</sup> See LIBRARIES 34:315.

### More Books for the Blind

An annual appropriation of \$100,000 to provide books for the adult blind was made possible by the passage of the Pratt Bill. On March 3 President Hoover transmitted to the House recommendation for the appropriation, for the fiscal year 1932, to carry the law into effect.

The Pratt Bill authorizes the Library of Congress to use the appropriation for the publication of books for the blind, and to arrange with libraries thruout the United States to serve as branch libraries or regional centers. In this way prompt service may be rendered to blind readers.

The Pratt Bill was sponsored by the American Foundation for the Blind and introduced by Congresswoman Ruth Pratt of New York.

### Calendar Revision

A second and revised edition of The World calendar, by Elisabeth Achelis, has been published by the World Calendar association, 485 Madison Avenue, New York City. It describes the proposed calendar simplification plans which will be taken up next fall at the International conference of the League of Nations.

In the "International Fixed Calendar" plan (13 months' year) each month has 28 days with the new month, known as Sol, intercalated between June and July. The 365th day of the year is called Year Day and falls at the end of December. The 366th day of Leap Year, known as Leap Day, comes between June and Sol.

In the "World Calendar" plan, the 12 month year consists of equal halves and quarters. The quarters consist of three months each, the first month having 31 days and the other two 30 days each. In every quarter the first month begins on Sunday; the second month begins on Wednesday; while the third

starts on Friday. Year Day is intercalated between December and January, while Leap Day comes between June and July.

### New Library for Millikin University

A new library, the gift of the trustees of James Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, will be ready for the students next fall. It will be known as the Orville B. Gorin library in honor of Mr. Gorin, long a member of the board of trustees and president of the Millikin bank.

Ground for the building was broken last fall and work has progressed rapidly all winter. The building conforms with the English style of architecture of the other campus buildings. The interior will be in keeping with the exterior. The walls will be sand finished and painted and the stairs, corridors, and laboratory floors will be of terrazzo.

Plenty of room has been provided for expansion, and everything for the convenience of the students has been adequately taken care of. Eugenia Allin, librarian, has had an active part in planning the building.

### Corrigenda

A note in March LIBRARIES (p. 150) states that only five libraries in 1930 received the one dollar per capita support—the figure established by the American Library Association as the lowest at which adequate library service may be provided. This survey was made only of cities having between 100,000 and 200,000 population. There are many libraries in smaller cities with one dollar per capita support.

The little poem "Belated lament" (p. 123) was wrongly credited to the *Chicago Daily News*, in whose columns it appeared anonymously. The author is discovered to have been Albert Ford Mullady, and the poem was published in the January 9 issue of *Life*.



Monthly—Except August  
and September

# Libraries

216 W. Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Eileen Ahern, *Editor*

Subscription - - - - - \$3 a year  
Current single number - - - - 35 cents

Five copies to one library - - \$12 a year  
Foreign subscriptions - - - \$3.50 a year

*By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.*

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies falling to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

## Public Libraries and Rare Books

A LIBRARIAN with some knowledge of important and incidentally rare books was being conducted thru a small-town library some time ago. He happened to inquire about some local imprint which he was desirous of examining. The librarian opened the door of a cupboard and disclosed a number of old books resting on shelves amidst dust cloths, brushes and other litter. These books had been given to the library by some old resident. They were of no apparent use, but caution forbade discarding them until they had been examined more closely. Meanwhile, they were left to an uncertain fate. The visiting librarian took one glance and picked up a copy of one of the most renowned accounts of an overland journey to the Pacific coast. The binding was gone, the title-page lay loose, but the book itself had retained its completeness. It was a particularly rare issue and easily worth five hundred dollars. Further search revealed other treasures of the kind nowadays eagerly sought by collectors but usually beyond the reach of libraries.

Such a find, altho of rare occurrence, is not unusual. Its possibilities form an inspiration of a number of traveling book scouts and agents, who sometimes buy old and locally unrecognized books of local libraries or offer them in exchange new and popular books which promise to cut a figure in statistics. In a business way, this is quite legitimate. It removes books of intrinsic value from localities where they are not appreciated and places them where they will be cared for and used as such treasures are used in an enlightened age. From the viewpoint of administration and community welfare, there is involved a loss. Nobody can prevent the thoughtless sale of an unrecognized Stradivarius or a diamond in private hands, or the untimely sale of a corner lot for a song. But community property, whether books, old letters or records of old business houses deposited in a public institution, ought to be protected. We remember a county building crammed with old documents, letters and records, where the smart son of an old official, enjoying the freedom of the

place, reaped a harvest of autographs and postage stamps which enabled him to spend a year of study in Europe.

Librarians in the last half-century have gained much in administrative and social knowledge and ability, but they rarely have benefited to a corresponding degree in acquiring a knowledge, or even a "hunch" for the great books which are eagerly sought by the present generation. One library is known to have discarded the first edition of Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans*, in original boards. It was bought for one dollar by a man who still has it—and therefore need not worry because another copy was sold less than a month ago for three thousand. Another—but what is the use of multiply-

ing examples! What we intend to say is that any community is justified in keeping books and other literary material even tho rare and intrinsically valuable; and if it decides differently it is entitled to reap the fullest possible benefit of its property. Nobody would think of disposing of school lands, town lots, etc., without finding out the true value of such holdings. If librarians do not know the value of old and rare books—and nobody can know them all; and often the most innocent-looking are the most deceptive—let them consult the experts connected with our large libraries before exchanging an old *Moby Dick* in black for a new and motley copy: A cold thousand dollars for the price of a dinner. B.

### A Woman for Next A. L. A. President

THE nomination and doubtless election of Miss Rathbone to the A. L. A. presidency is an admirable choice. Miss Rathbone, vice-director of the Pratt Institute library school, is one of the women who have been active in large fields of library service. She has served on many valuable committees of the A. L. A., New York state library association, New York city library club, and many other library groups. Her interest and work in library school organizations and alumni groups have given her a wide range of acquaintances and equipped her to serve adequately and honorably the Association to which she has just been nominated president. It must be remembered therefore that the Nominating committee in admiration of Miss Rathbone's accomplishments see in her the sort of president that will give added strength to the work of the A. L. A. in the oncoming year.

Miss Rathbone spent her youth in the Middlewest. Most of her library work has been on the Atlantic seaboard, and for these many years she has been very largely responsible for sending out groups of well-educated, well-endowed, and well-prepared librarians all over the country. The Pacific coast, the Northwest, of course the Atlantic coast and the real South itself contain perhaps the majority of Pratt graduates. The feeling of pride that will come to them from such a choice will be no small factor in strengthening the service, not only on the part of their libraries, but in the appreciation of the communities served by Pratt Institute librarians. And so LIBRARIES rejoices that Miss Rathbone has been nominated and has the faith to believe the choice was a wise one and that the standing of the American Library Association will be benefited in every way.

### Women Officers in A. L. A.

THE women of the Association undoubtedly will appreciate the compliment that is paid to one of their kind in nominating Josephine Adams Rathbone for the presidency. It has been said that there are twenty women to one man in the profession, and in the years of its existence the American Library Association has had four women presidents though many times secondary honors for other offices have been theirs. In 1912, Mrs. Theresa West Elmendorf, a vice-librarian of Buffalo, for many years a strong and valuable worker in the production of bibliographic material sent out by the A. L. A., was the first woman president to be elected. The well-known leader, Mary W. Plummer, was the second woman president but her untimely death prevented her serving in that capacity. Alice S. Tyler, head of the Library School of Western Reserve University

and for many years head of the library extension work of the Iowa state library commission, was the third woman president. In 1929, Linda A. Eastman, librarian of the Public library of Cleveland, Ohio, and well known for her effective and efficient work in that institution, was the fourth woman to be elected to that office. Four women in 50 years! It doesn't look as if the women had taken possession in any degree of that office. However, women librarians have not been office seekers. They have performed their work admirably, even, it may be said, in many instances far beyond the activities of the men librarians, but for the most part they have been content with having accomplished something for the good of the cause in positions oftentimes far from the limelight but also in such relations as have made their work effective.

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### Libraries and the Jobless

DUE to present economic conditions, men are spending their leisure hours in public libraries in an effort to prepare themselves for special lines of work, now that idleness gives them time; to further qualify for better jobs when jobs are again available; merely while away the long hours; to read the books that they have for years promised themselves the pleasure of reading; or as a place of refuge from winter cold or spring dampness. Whatever the motive that leads men to public libraries, the course is apparent and the result is crowded reading rooms and soaring circulation figures.

That libraries have met the increased demands is evident from reports received from all over the country. With book funds unchanged or below average, with the same or decreased staff, libraries have loaned books and rejoiced to be of use.

The reading rooms in some cities have been so over-crowded that special rules have been formulated to prevent those not in business from carrying on such exhaustive research, that the time of clerks is used in a hunt for elusive material.

Altho public libraries were not built as shelters or places of amusement, they

were founded on a definite policy of helpfulness, and no library authority has yet been heard from who has objected to giving additional reading services to the unemployed.

After the snows of winter have passed and the storms of adversity quieted down, many thousands of men, taking heart, will find themselves better equipped

mentally for those hours spent in the public library. And the libraries—those good old plodding public libraries that have been open all day and often till late at night—will find that they have a different position in their communities. They have become a friend to restless, unwilling idlers—and a friend in need will become a friend indeed.

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### Clash or Coöperation?

THE marked progress of school libraries during the past few years has been most encouraging. Nevertheless, one of the old handicaps to progress persists. As the school library increases in importance in school organizations, school executives very naturally feel increasingly less inclined to turn it over to an outside agency. Very logically, from their viewpoint, they feel that it should reflect more and more the technic of the classroom.

School librarians, on the other hand, are rather reluctant to make the school library quite as much of an adjunct to the school curriculum as it sometimes is. They feel that, if it is to function as a lasting educational influence, it should have, at least in large part, the voluntary atmosphere of the public library and that its aim should be independent reading of the right kind, rather than directed reading always based on definite courses planned to articulate with school work.

In the present economic stringency, there is a strong probability that more

rather than fewer teachers will be assigned to school library work. This will make it all the more necessary for the specially trained school librarian to demonstrate the value of her training. There is no need of fundamental disagreement. To be worth recognition as a school activity the school library must work harmoniously with the school organization. To fulfill the purpose of any school—the development of ability to continue self-education beyond the school walls—it must aim to develop a taste for reading and skill in the use of books. The desultory reading of most school graduates seems to indicate that the classroom alone seldom develops this taste and skill. In some way, the two viewpoints must be made to supplement each other. Along that way alone is progress. In the clash of opinion at this critical time, there is danger of delayed development or even perversion of the real purpose of school library work.

W.

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### Slow in Responding

THE report of the Nominating committee for A. L. A. officers for the coming year is offered for the consideration of the membership. In accordance with the rule of procedure the nominations will be printed and sent to members in time to vote on them before the meeting at Yale. The Committee has worked

hard to gather a consensus of opinion as to what the membership want, and it should not have been subjected to the delay that has followed its effort to get an opinion from those familiar with the workings of the organization as to what suggestions might be offered in making an acceptable list of nominees.

### Death's Toll

Many members of the legal fraternity mourn the loss of Mary V. Fisk, librarian of the Lucas County Law library, Toledo, Ohio, who died suddenly on February 25. Miss Fisk entered the Lucas County courthouse in 1867. After serving for a few years as a deputy clerk she was appointed legal librarian. At her death there were approximately 23,000 law books in her care.

John Smart Brownne, who was librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine for 46 years, passed away at his home in Haworth, New Jersey, February 27. He was the son of the late Robert Brownne, librarian of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, and a grandson of the builder of Robert Fulton's steamboat, the Clermont.

When Mr. Brownne assumed charge of the Academy of Medicine library in 1880, it contained only 25,000 volumes; now it ranks as the third largest medical library in the world.

Katherine K. Patten, curator of Washingtoniana at the Public library, Washington, D. C., died on March 10. Since Miss Patten's appointment to the staff in 1905 as head of periodicals in the reference room, she has built up the library's collection of Washingtoniana to such proportions that in 1928 it was transferred to a separate division. Her work brought her in touch with writers, journalists, and club workers who regarded her as an authority on questions of the development of the National Capital from earliest times.

Grace Wood, reference librarian of the Public library, Worcester, Massachusetts, since 1909, passed away on March 6 after a brief illness. For 15 years before her appointment as reference librarian, Miss Wood served as junior and later as senior assistant in the same department. A most worthy and

fitting tribute from the librarian, Mr. Shaw, expresses their great loss:

Modest and unassuming to the point of shyness, Miss Wood shunned publicity and carried on her engrossing work with that quiet efficiency which marks the true executive . . .

Success in reference work requires wide reading, a retentive memory, knowledge of sources and of languages, with a ready versatility capable of focussing these essential qualities immediately on the problem at hand. By natural endowment, methodical devotion to her work, and the wise use of a splendid memory, Miss Wood excelled in all of these requirements . . .

As a member of the library staff she was always coöperative, social, generous and ready to give liberally of time and effort whenever the opportunity afforded. Long will her genial spirit hover over those precincts blessed by her presence.

### Jewish Book Week

The fifth annual Jewish Book Week will be observed this year in America during the week beginning May 3. It was first suggested in 1927 and has since then been featured annually with considerable success thruout the country. A concentrated effort is being made this year for an appropriate observance of this current Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omar, which in the ancient days was better known thruout Jewry as the "Scholars' Festival." Synagogues, religious schools, book stores, study groups, libraries, and other communal organizations are asked to feature the occasion and to lay special emphasis during this week on the Gospel of the Jewish Book. Attention is being focussed by pulpit and press on the value of books and reading as the Jew's cultural and literary heritage. It is suggested that libraries get in touch with their local rabbi or council of Jewish women for suggestions and loans of books, pictures, and ceremonial objects which will lend themselves for exhibit purposes, and to feature during Jewish Book Week books of Jewish character and significance.

A list of 100 books suitable for Jewish readers can be obtained upon request at the Boston public library.



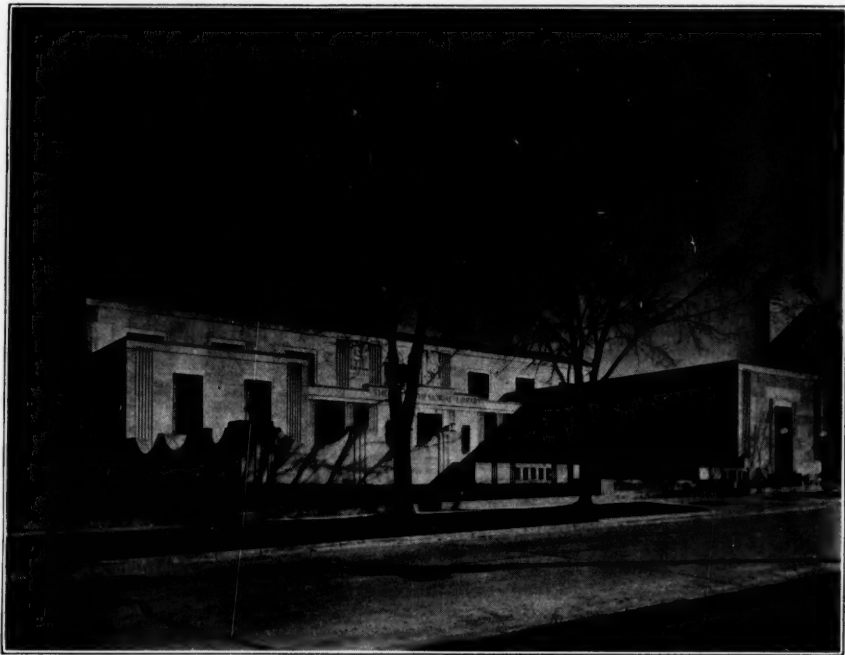
### The Newest Library

The Haish Memorial Library, De Kalb, Illinois. Dedicated February 15, 1931

William Robinson Safford

A first view of the new Haish Memorial library, fresh from the capable hands of the artisans, leaves one somewhat shocked because the usual impedimenta, at least from the time of Mr. Carnegie—Greek columns and pediments, or Roman columns and pediments,

Startling as the innovation seems we must admit that the substitution of new forms in place of those somewhat bore-some "orders" with which architecture has been so inflicted is agreeably refreshing. The building is beautiful since it exemplifies a simple use of plain wall



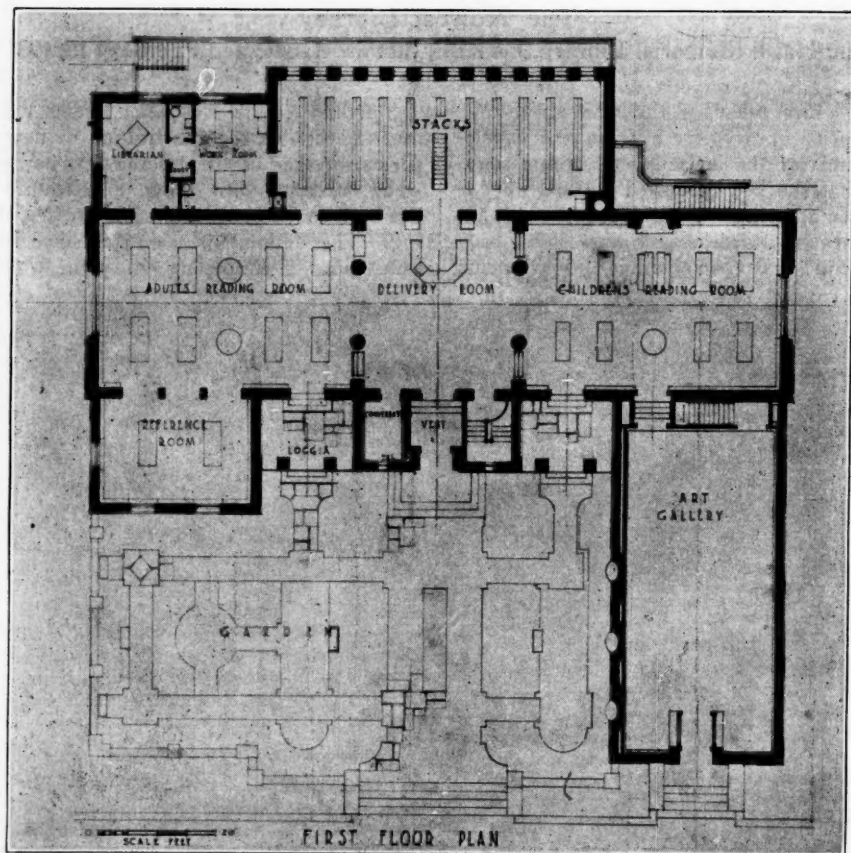
Haish Memorial Library  
De Kalb, Illinois

White and Weber, Architects  
Chicago

or Roman columns and Greek pediments—are not to be found on any façade of this building. There are, it is true, four columns of scagliola inside the structure, under the great dome of the delivery room to be exact, but these cylinders without base or capital are of neither Greek nor Roman extraction. (It is worthy of note that they do not obstruct the vision of the attendant at the desk.)

surfaces, color, texture, and that undefinable quality—proportion. There is no unnecessary "embroidery," and it *looks* like a library. One could not by any chance mistake it for a bank, a school, or a church.

Among other noticeable departures, one is sure to note that the wing at the left is shorter than the wing at the right! The entrance is thru a garden planted



Floor plan — Haish Memorial Library

behind a garden wall! The pilasters on the façades are of no recognized order of architecture! The wings have no visible roofs!

The floor plan of this interesting building is sufficiently explained by the illustration and needs no further analysis. We might mention, however, that the art gallery, which we think a perfectly stunning idea in connection with a public library, has a separate entrance from the street. Thus that harassed executive—the librarian—will not be disturbed by the passage thru the reading room of those whose objective is the art gallery.

Between exhibitions the art gallery is used as an auditorium.

We are informed by the architects, White and Weber, of Chicago, that no expense has been spared to make this building permanently sound, avoiding that bugaboo of the library board—expensive upkeep. This appears a worthy ideal, one that might well be adopted by other library builders. Expense for building repairs in many cases becomes a considerable item, necessitating drastic curtailment of expenditures for books.

Thru the munificence of the late Jacob Haish of DeKalb, reputed to be the gen-

tleman who first put the barbs in barbed wire, a fund of \$150,000 was available for the DeKalb building which made it possible for the architects to select building materials of great endurance, such as "shot-sawed and stained" Indiana limestone in soft shades of buff and brown; steel windows; an aluminum roof applied on pre-cast concrete slabs; flagstone walks and stone seats in the garden.

Inside the building beautiful materials were used generously—Kasota marble walls; floors of varnished and waxed cork-tile laid "herringbone" fashion on fireproof slabs; weathered oak bookcases; aluminum skylights. The steel bookstacks and wood furniture were furnished by a concern qualified by many years' experience as specialists in library planning and equipment.

Fred M. Torrey, the Chicago sculptor, contributed six notable panels, modern enough but not too modern, four in the delivery room of Kasota marble depicting art, history, fiction and science, and two of Indiana limestone on the exterior at the front entrance (The "author" and the "student").

Another deviation from the conventional—the architects did their own interior decorating. The result is a bold, unusual composition combining leaf-green walls with old-gold panels and a blue ceiling with a modeled plaster cornice in burnt sienna. Altho this color combination may seem unusual, the result is completely satisfying. The blue of the vaulted ceiling is deepest next to the cornice and fades at the top of the arch to the color of a mid-day sky. Wool curtains of Algiers red hang at the windows. It is evident that the architects felt that warmth of color might properly be present in a public library. Thus is the last vestige of Greek influence ignored in this building.

The public library has at last gone "modern."

### The Newspaper Library<sup>1</sup>

The deity Janus with his two faces, one looking toward the rising sun and the other toward the setting sun, might appropriately be the symbol of the newspaper library. Not that the newspaper library is two-faced. It has a dual relation and it functions night and day. The newspaper library is looking forward in its daily effort of collecting such facts as by good judgment and imagination may in the future be found useful, and it is constantly looking into the past in the effort to get the facts in the life history of a man or woman or thing.

In one sense the newspaper library is merely one of many services which the modern newspaper employs in the work of presenting the news of the day, and in presenting it accurately. As an individual institution it is a department equipped with tools to supply information on persons and things, past and present. When the Japanese earthquake occurred a few years ago, the only data wanted from among the thousands of facts were: Everything in the library about Tokio, and everything about earthquakes.

That brings us to the first phase of the newspaper library, as one of many services of the newspaper, because the first news of the Japanese earthquake came from the Associated Press, and having received that brief bulletin the library was called upon to function.

The Associated Press is one of several newsgathering associations which not only furnishes daily news dispatches to its member newspapers, but does many other things. One is its biographical service, the preparation of biographies, which are released in event of death of eminent persons the world over. The library has about 1,800 of these biographies ready for instant use. The A. P. serves to Boston newspapers no Boston

<sup>1</sup> Extracts from a paper read at the S.L.A. meeting, Boston chapter, January 26, by William Alcott, librarian of the *Boston Globe*.

news, nor to New York newspapers New York news, but it gives the New York news to Boston and vice versa. The A. P. issues feature articles, and it maintains a great photo service. It spends \$10,000,000 a year for news, and the member newspapers pay the bill.

The United Press, a chain of 26 newspapers, has similar facilities for service. Then there is the International News Service, a chain of 32, serving first their own newspapers and then such others as desire it. Smaller, but very important, news services are maintained by several metropolitan newspapers.

The syndicate services have grown to enormous proportions, and the ramification of this activity is most interesting. *Editor and Publisher* lists 1,009 of them. The list of syndicate writers and artists numbers 1,284. Some of the syndicate features come to the library direct, but the great mass of them go first to the feature editor. The syndicate scheme is simple. They find a feature or hire a writer to write an article for them and then take the article and sell it in duplicate to as many other papers as possible.

The newspaper library, as a distinct division, has four or five departments, the reference library of books, periodicals, pamphlets, atlases and charts; the clipping collection, which is our largest and most important; the photo collection, and the metal cuts. Some newspaper libraries also file negatives.

The newspaper library often needs later information than is contained in any printed book, and it often needs information that will never be found in any printed book, so that we are obliged to rely largely upon our file of clippings for the latest facts.

The clipping file is our most used tool. Not long ago in the Red Cross radio hookup, Ex-President Coolidge said that if each automobile owner in this country would contribute only 40 cents to the drouth relief fund the whole \$10,000,000

would be raised. The next day the managing editor came in with the question: "Where did President Coolidge get his figures?" Going into our clipping file, under Automobiles, Registration, was a *Globe* clipping of January 5, 1931, showing the total registration of automobiles in this country in 1930 to be over 26,000,000.

Our clipping file was started 50 years ago when there was no American biographical publication. It has two divisions, persons and things, or biographical and subject. We have about 200,000 folders of biography, and about 50,000 folders on miscellaneous subjects. The clippings number about 1,500,000. We also have a file of scrapbooks running back 35 years containing all the important obituaries which have been printed in the *Globe* in that period.

Building up the clipping file is our first major task. For that purpose we always read, mark, clip and file from many papers. First we take from the nine daily editions of the *Globe* and from the five Sunday editions, and all other Boston morning and evening papers. Then we take three leading New York papers. In addition, much material comes to us from our exchange department, which receives more than 60 papers a day from all parts of the country.

In case our clipping file does not yield the desired information quickly, which sometimes happens, the *New York Times Index*, running back to 1913, will generally locate any item of importance. Our own bound files of the *Globe*, running back to 1872, are frequently consulted.

Most of the time of six persons is occupied with the clipping file. One person reads, marks and classifies; another cuts the papers and alphabetizes; two are employed in filing; one revises and eliminates; one or more persons issue.

The earlier method of preserving newspaper clippings was in scrapbooks,

and we have a considerable set of scrap-books of special subjects. We have, for instance, the Civil War day by day. Today the Municipal Reference library in New York mounts its clippings on large sheets of cardboard. In many newspaper libraries on the Pacific Coast it is the custom to mount all newspaper clippings on uniform slips of paper, a different color being used each year. In the *Globe* library, as in most eastern libraries, a clipping is filed "as is," unless it is very small. It is our rule to mount any clipping less than two inches in length on a slip of paper 4x5 inches.

We file in kraft folders, 5x8 inches, open at top and on one side. The elimination of flaps, formerly used with envelopes, has given us additional space equal to five standard cabinets of seven drawers each, with a double file 24 inches deep in each drawer.

Elimination of useless material is a problem in any library. We meet it by employing a person on full time whose duty it is to revise and correct and eliminate from the clipping file. It took more than two years to go over the file once, but every day as much material is discarded as is filed.

A flood of photos is constantly pouring into the library. Judgment is passed on each individual photo, identity is checked, the typed caption is made secure and each photo is passed along to one of three destinations: for return to its owner, in case of loaned photos; for the permanent file, if desirable; or for the discard, if undesirable.

In the cut department, metal cuts of standard size and of sufficient merit only are filed. Always the night editor is made to feel happy when in the late hours word comes of a person or thing in the news which at that hour may be illustrated with a cut from stock, when no time remains for making a new one.

School and college catalogs find their greatest value with us in supplying the

full and correct name and home address of the player on the baseball diamond or football gridiron who achieves headline importance in the game. The several versions of the Bible, with the hymnal and Book of Common Prayer are used in verifying quotations and names used at funerals and religious services. Columbia and Victor catalogs are useful in giving names of popular songs and their composers.

The development of the radio and the radio news broadcast has made necessary Phyfe's "18,000 words commonly mispronounced."

The best tool of all in the newspaper library is the telephone. The *Globe* library would have failed many times to meet demands for information were it not for the friendly librarian at the other end, in all parts of Greater Boston, whose willing coöperation enormously enlarges the service of the library.

### A Questionnaire on Questionnaires

Altho perfectly reasonable sets of questions which come to libraries at different times are altogether justified, many are worthless and annoying. The following bit of nonsense has been composed by a librarian who has been having a run of them lately:

Name (N. or M.)  
 Date of birth (if before January 1, 1900, you need not answer).  
 When did you first hear of a questionnaire?  
 Give exact date.  
 Date of receipt of your first questionnaire.  
 What was it about?  
 Did you answer it?  
 Did you tell the truth?  
 How many questions did it ask for which you knew the answer?  
 How many did it ask for which you did not know the answer?  
 How much library time did you consume in searching for correct answers?  
 How much did it cost the taxpayers?  
 What is your salary?  
 Do you earn it?  
 Are you overpaid? Underpaid?  
 How many questionnaires have you received to date?



List below source and subject of each, giving approximate date in every case. Average number of questionnaires per annum.

What was the date of your last questionnaire?

What was its subject?

How many times have you wanted to reply "None of your business"?

Have you elegant manners?

Are you a reader of the writings of Lord Chesterfield?

Have you ever heard of him?

What is your nationality?

Are you an American citizen?

Are you a Republican? Democrat?

Name of father.

Maiden name of mother.

Are you married or single?

If married, are you accustomed to questionnaires?

Check below what you consider the most used questions:

Where are the keys to the car? Why didn't you meet me when you said you would? Why don't you sew on that button I told you about? Where are my clean clothes? Who made this pie? How much money can I have today? Add any others you think of.

Do you like questionnaires? Give reasons.

Have any of your ancestors ever suffered from insanity? idiocy?

What is your I. Q.? (N.B. This may be considered to mean intelligence quotient or impertinent question.)

Have you ever been called a moron?

Have you a questionnaire complex?

Have you been psychoanalyzed? By whom?

Did the analyzer know anything about the subject?

Have you ever been in jail?

Do you use intoxicants? tobacco? drugs?

Do you believe in the eighteenth amendment?

Before going to bed do you eat cold mince pie? liverwurst? pickled pigs' feet?

Total number hours, weeks, months, spent in answering questionnaires.

Total value in salary.

Do you belong to any society for the 1) promotion and 2) suppression of questionnaires?

Give name, address, and purpose of the society.

Do you believe that the U. S. government should forbid the mails to questionnaires?

Give names and addresses of 20 persons who will vouch for your identity and character.

In space below write not fewer than one word, nor more than 1,000 words, of your opinion of questionnaires.

Date

Signed  
Position  
Address

## The New Haven Conference

June 22-27

The dormitories of Yale University will be placed at the disposal of conventionists attending the A. L. A. summer conference at New Haven, Connecticut. Meals will be served at the Commons. General meetings will be held in Woolsey Hall and the beautiful new Sterling Memorial library will be used for sectional and committee meetings, exhibits, etc.

The first of the four general sessions will be held on Monday evening, June 22. This meeting will be given over largely to the presidential address which will be preceded by brief addresses of welcome by Dr. Keogh and others. There is to be an informal reception at the library after this session. Two distinguished speakers have been invited for the second general session Tuesday morning, June 23; two for the third general session Thursday morning, June 25; and one for the fourth general session Saturday afternoon, June 27. (The names will be announced when acceptances have been received.)

### Sections

*Adult Education round table*—One session. "Parent education," "Discussion groups," and "Adult education in small libraries" will be discussed. (Speakers to be announced)

*American Association of law libraries*—Five sessions and a joint banquet with the National Association of state libraries, at which George S. Godard of the Connecticut State library will preside. Addresses will be given at the first session by Charles E. Clark, dean, Yale University Law School; Edwin M. Borchart, Yale University Law School; George S. Godard; S. D. Klapp, Minneapolis Bar Association library; and Rosamond Parma, University of California Law library. The second session is a round table.

The following addresses will be given at the third session:

"Latin American law," John T. Vance, Library of Congress

"The Harvard Law School library," Elton R. James, Harvard Law School library

"Cataloging and classification in a modern law library," Frederick C. Hicks, Yale Law School library

The fourth session will be a round table on bar association libraries. "Session laws," by Dr. G. E. Wire of Worcester, Massachusetts, will be given at the fifth session. (Other speakers to be announced)

*Art Reference round table*—One session. "Relations between public libraries and art museums" to be presented by a well-known national figure in the field of the fine arts, and discussed informally by the round table. It will be very helpful in planning the discussion if the secretary, Marian E. Comings, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, may have the names of librarians, heads of art departments and heads of museum libraries who are interested and plan to be present.

*Bibliographical Society of America*—The important presentations of this section will be:

"Printer's copy in the eighteenth century," Frederick A. Pottle, Yale University

"Some notes on the publications of early Connecticut printers," Albert C. Bates, librarian, Connecticut Historical Society

"James Johns, Vermont pen-printer," R. W. G. Vail, librarian, American Antiquarian Society

"Elizabethan club," Gilbert L. Troxell, Yale University library

*Work with the blind*—An informal meeting, at which the following questions will be discussed: "Books—What books do we want first? The passing of the Pratt Bill raises this question"; "Other suggestions"; "Which edition of the *Reader's Digest*, one volume or three volumes, serves our borrowers best?"

*Catalog section*—A general session and two round tables. Nathan van Patten, Stanford University libraries, will be the speaker at the general session.

Large Libraries round table: "Problems involved in handling documents," Augustus F. Kuhlman, University of Chicago libraries

Small Libraries round table: "Cataloging plus," Katharine H. Rock, Public library, Greenville, Pennsylvania

*College and Reference section*—Two sessions. The first is divided into three group meetings.

1) For reference librarians:

"The Building of a large reference collection in a public library," Marilla W. Freeman, Cleveland public library, and Katharine T. Moody, St. Louis public library

"The Problems that arise from the use of such a collection by an unrestricted public," Richard G. Hensley, Boston public library

2) For librarians and staff members of college and university libraries:

"Assistant librarians and library assistants," Donald Coney, North Carolina University library

"Administrative functions of a departmental chief" (Speaker to be announced)

"What may a professor expect from the college library," Alfred D. Compton, College of the City of New York

"Library visits and visitors," Donald B. Gilchrist, University of Rochester library

3) For librarians of the larger college and university libraries:

"Coöperative purchasing of periodicals," Lawrence Heyl, Princeton University library

"Is a separate organization of university librarians desirable?" Nathan van Patten, Stanford University libraries

A discussion by J. T. Gerould, Princeton University library, and others, will be followed by a report of the Executive committee of the Section on experiments on holding various sectional meetings of the College and Reference section and future policy; projects recommended to the A. L. A. Executive board; and scope of the *College and Reference Library Yearbook*.

The presentations at the second session are as follows:

"Reading habits of the intelligent reader," Henry Seidel Canby, New York City

"The Public library and college alumni reading," Charles R. Green, The Jones library, Amherst, Massachusetts

"The College library and alumni reading" (Speaker to be announced)

"Some experiments in the stimulation of student reading," Nathan van Patten

"New publications," Winifred Gregory, New York City, and Edward A. Henry, University of Cincinnati libraries

*County Libraries section*—One session and a joint meeting with the League of library commissions. The first session is a business meeting, followed by talks on the need for more specialized training for the county librarian and coöperation between school and county library. The topic to be discussed at the joint meeting is "The Place of the book truck in county library development." County library activities will be shown thru moving pictures.

*Hospital Libraries round table*—One session.

"Fundamental principles of book selection for patients," Isabel Du Bois, Bureau of Navigation, U. S. Navy department

"Features to avoid and those to emphasize in selecting books for neuropsychiatric patients" (Speaker to be announced)

"Reading needs of the tuberculous patient" (Speaker to be announced) with discussion led by Dr. Lewis A. Sexton, president, American Hospital association

"Five minute echoes from the 1930 British Library Association meeting at Cambridge" (Speaker to be announced)

*Junior College round table*—Two sessions. "Budgets," "Book collections," "Stimulating interest in reading," and "Library instruction for junior colleges" are the subjects. Further consideration will be given to the Tentative Standards adopted last year.

*League of library commissions*—One session and a joint meeting with the County Libraries section. (See that Section for a note about joint program.) Independent session will largely be given over to business. Discussion of proposed survey of library commission practices and policies. Tommie Dora Barker will talk on her work in the South.

*Library Buildings round table*—One session.

"Causes of obsolescence of library buildings," Jesse Cunningham, Public library Memphis, Tennessee

"Selection of the site for a branch public library," Howard L. Hughes, Free public library, Trenton, New Jersey

*Section for library work with children*—Three sessions. "The Making of

book lists for boys and girls" is the general topic for discussion:

"For the public library," Alice M. Jordan, Boston public library

"For the public library and the school," Amelia Munson, New York public library

"For the publishers," Louise Seaman, The Macmillan Company

"For the booksellers," Mrs. Pauline Sutorius Aird, The Children's Book Shop, New York City

A brief business meeting will be followed by a discussion on programs for radio broadcasting for boys and girls, and a joint session with the School Libraries section.

*National Association of state libraries*—Three sessions and a joint banquet with the American Association of law libraries. At the first session, George S. Godard of the Connecticut State library will give the address of welcome, followed by the president's address and report of the secretary-treasurer. Brief statements by various state library representatives will be given on the subject "Legislative changes in state libraries."

"Unified organization for state libraries," Henry E. Dunnack, Maine State library

"Administrative viewpoints, state and municipal" (Speaker to be announced)

"Thots on an ideal state library," Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of LIBRARIES

Second session:

"Book selection in the state library" (Speaker to be announced)

"The *Newspaper Index* and the *Union Catalog* as means of enlarging state library reference resources," Mabel R. Gillis, California State library

"The State's interest in its authors, artists and composers" (Speaker to be announced)

"Aids in the use of law libraries: bibliographic notes" (Speaker to be announced)

"Methods and materials of legislative reference," H. H. B. Meyer, Library of Congress

Third session:

"The Government organization handbook," H. J. Conant, Vermont State library

"New housing facilities for state libraries," Louis J. Bailey, Indiana State library

"Standards for ink and paper" (Speaker to be announced)

"A clearing house for public documents," Herbert O. Brigham, Rhode Island State library

"Public document news," Alton P. Tisdell, superintendent of documents, Washington, D. C.

**Order and Book Selection round table**—One session. "Book selection, particularly the selection of fiction" is the topic for discussion. George H. Evans, Public library, Somerville, Massachusetts, will talk on "The Book review club of Greater Boston."

**Professional Training section**—There will be a joint meeting with the Association of American library schools.

"The Point of view of the A.L.A. personnel division," Sarah C. N. Bogle

"The Placement problems of the library executive," Harold F. Brigham, Carnegie library of Nashville, Tennessee

"Placing the library school graduate," Mrs. Gertrude G. Drury, Library school, St. Louis public library

"The Point of view of the library school graduate," Mildred C. Clapp, Public library, Newark, New Jersey

**Public Documents round table**—One session. "The Androsen depository library bill" will be discussed. Paul R. Fossum, professor of Economics, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, will talk on "The Usefulness of government documents in a liberal arts college." Other speakers: Alton P. Tisdell, superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.; Frank K. Walter, University of Minnesota library; C. C. Williamson, Columbia University libraries.

**Publicity round table**—One session. Topic: "Raising salaries." There will also be a closed business meeting of the Publicity committee.

**Readers' Advisers round table**—A luncheon meeting, followed by a round table for librarians who are giving personal advisory service or who are particularly interested in the work of readers' bureaus.

**Training Class section**—One session. "The Teaching of children's literature in the training class" will be discussed by Lillian H. Smith of the Toronto public library. A report will be given by the

Committee on methods of selecting applicants for training classes.

**Trustees section**—One session. "Costs of library service with reference to utility," and "Educational values" will be treated.

**Young People's Reading round table**—One session:

"The Public library and specialized work with young people" (Speaker to be announced)

"How can the young people's librarian help in vocational guidance?" (Speaker to be announced)

"Reading trends of the teen age," Mrs. May Lamberton Becker

#### Post-conference motor tour

The A. L. A. Travel committee has planned a most delightful post-conference motor bus tour covering the four and one-half day period before those from the Middlewest and South holding return tickets have to leave New Haven. The itinerary of this 475 mile tour thru parts of four New England states is as follows:

Leaving New Haven Sunday morning, June 28, the busses will go along the shore of Long Island Sound easterly to Saybrook at the mouth of the Connecticut River, and then follow the river along the high and slightly banks to Hartford where a stop for lunch and sight-seeing will be made. Leaving Hartford at about 4:30, the party will arrive in Springfield where the night will be spent at Hotel Kimball. The Library, Art Museum, and Historical Museum will be open for inspection during the evening.

Monday, June 29, leave Springfield after breakfast by way of Chicopee, Holyoke, and Mount Tom, to Northampton where a short stop will be made at Smith College and the Forbes library. (The ascent of Mount Tom is included as part of this trip.) Lunch will be at Amherst at the Lord Jeffery Hotel, with opportunity to visit either the Jones public library or the Amherst College library. After lunch the party will go to Greenfield where the night will be spent at the Weldon Hotel, stopping, however, in Deerfield long enough to visit the old residences in that delightful village.

Tuesday morning, leave Greenfield, still following the Connecticut River north, via Bellows Falls, Vermont, to Charlestown, New Hampshire, thence west across the state of Vermont to Manchester for lunch, arriving at Williamstown, Massachusetts, for the night at Williams Inn. There will



be a stop in the afternoon at old Bennington, Vermont.

Wednesday, July 1. Leaving Williamstown, the party will cross the Berkshires twice, each by way of the Mohawk Trail to Shelburne Falls for lunch, and back via the Berkshire Trail to Pittsfield, arriving in Lenox for the night at the Curtis Hotel. There the Lenox library will arrange for a pleasant evening entertainment.

On Thursday, July 2, the party will leave Lenox for New Haven by way of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Canaan, Torrington and Waterbury, Connecticut, arriving at New Haven shortly after noon, so that those holding return tickets may leave on the afternoon trains.

Total expenses of the tour, covering transportation, hotels (two in a room without bath), meals, and all sight-seeing, will be \$43. Those desiring room alone with private bath, add \$5 extra; those wishing room alone without bath, \$3 extra.

Registration should be made as early as possible with Mr. F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis Street, Boston, Massachusetts, with first payment of \$5.

### American Library Association

#### Notes and news

The University of Chicago Press and the A. L. A. are joint publishers for Dr. Waples' *What people want to read about*. The publication date is set for May 26.

The Pacific area in international relations, the *Reading with a Purpose* series No. 44 appearing in March, recommends the following books:

- The Restless Pacific. Nicholas Roosevelt. Scribner
- Survey of American foreign relations, 1930. Charles P. Howland. Yale University Press
- The Chinese revolution. Arthur N. Holcombe. Harvard University Press.
- Modern Japan and its problems. G. C. Allen. Dutton
- The Washington conference and after. Yamato Ichihashi. Stanford University Press
- The Pacific area. George H. Blakeslee. World Peace Foundation
- Problems of the Pacific, 1929. Institute of Pacific Relations. University of Chicago Press

Robert J. Usher, Howard Memorial library, New Orleans, Louisiana, has withdrawn his name from the American Library Association's list of nominees for second vice-president for 1931-32 (p. 135), according to J. Christian Bay, chairman of the Nominating committee.

Emily V. D. Miller, editor of A. L. A. publications, and Josephine Taber of the Seattle public library, have been appointed A. L. A. delegates to the Congress International de la Lecture Publique which will be held in Algeria, North Africa, April 13-18.

The time for raising funds to save curtailment of some of the essential work of the American Library Association has been extended until May 1. Since President Strohman made his appeal in January, \$9,640 in new memberships have been received. Capitalized at twenty to one, this amounts to \$192,800 and brings the endowment fund to \$745,869 of the needed million, leaving only \$254,131 to be raised.

The Committee on work with the foreign born is planning a Consultation Hour during the 1931 convention at New Haven. Committee members and others with special experience in reading service to racial groups will be accessible for consultation at this time to librarians with individual problems. Chairman Edna Phillips, Division of public libraries, State House, Boston, will welcome suggestions.

The A. L. A. has published a study outline with Russian literature, the January *Reading with a Purpose* course. It is the first such study guide to accompany any course in the series and was issued at the request of many librarians who felt the need of such material to assist individuals in making a systematic study of a subject. The outline is divided into 12 lessons and combines the reading of Russian novels with books about the authors and the Russia of their day.



### We Need A Philosophy

Arnold K. Borden, reference assistant,  
Dartmouth College library, Hanover, N. H.

It has been observed that philosophy commonly follows fact. The natural sequence of events is first the creation or discovery of a given set of facts and second the putting of those facts upon their inferences. Although a certain amount of theory on the part of individuals necessarily precedes the discovery of fact, the important thing is that a philosophy be developed subsequently to evaluate the fact discovered.

The great danger, of course, is that no philosophy will be evolved—with the result that operations remain mechanical and fail to take on meaning. It is the part of philosophy to breathe a cosmic and unifying spirit over multitudes of loosely related facts. Without it there is a failure to see relationships and the field as a whole. The results are stagnation, atrophy, and inability to progress.

What now is all this about philosophy doing in a periodical devoted to the library profession? Well, there are those who hold that library work is a science. If so, it must have a philosophy to explain the facts which are experimentally discovered and practiced. Furthermore many consider that one of the primary functions of a library is to educate. Now a teacher who sets out to instruct youth with only a certain amount of information to impart and no philosophical view of life will be a very poor teacher indeed. The same is true of librarians. They need to devote time to reflection now and then on various fundamental questions: Are libraries educational institutions? Are public libraries essential in a democracy? What is the justification for the invasion by libraries of the adult education movement? The results of such contemplation are sure to be a modification of individual attitudes and of general administrative policies. If members of the profession would think

a little more deeply about the *raison d'être* back of the machinery, the general level of values might tend to rise.

A book which should provoke a good deal of thought is that by Dr. Flexner on universities, in which he enumerates four main functions of a university. The first two are the conservation of knowledge and the interpretation of knowledge. These two functions appear to be peculiarly applicable to libraries. The cataloging, shelving, and distribution of books are characteristic of the conservation function and the reference and research work of the interpretation function. Unfortunately, and in part as a result of the lagging behind of philosophy, there tends to develop a hiatus in libraries between these two functions. Self-satisfaction in the fact of large accumulations of books and inadequate philosophies obscure the desirability of lending every possible aid to scholars who would make use of those accumulations in a creative way. Many libraries, in other words, have become vast treasure houses without developing any adequate machinery for revealing those treasures to the world. A prominent scientist said in a recent letter: "If we could spend one-tenth of the vigor in making efficient use of our fine collections that we expend in collecting them and talking about them, I think that the progress of learning might be better assured."

It is a fact, unfortunate or otherwise, that scholars have an inadequate understanding of the bibliographical resources at their disposal. This may very well be a point at which the scholar should make contact with a research librarian. And if there is a research librarian available who is a specialist in the particular field in which the scholar is working, he will be able to give not only expert bibliographical help but assistance that transcends bibliographies and commands all the resources of the library. Yet no such

expansion of library activities is possible until librarians are able to perceive the educational potentialities and philosophical implications of the great collections they administer.

There are many excellent reference and research departments which more or less fill the breach between the conservation and interpretation functions of libraries. In this respect many public libraries have forged ahead of college libraries. But there is a wide difference between the character of service that needs to be rendered in public libraries and university libraries. With a few possible exceptions like the Library of Congress the great bulk of scholarly research is done in connection with educational institutions. Public libraries may be called upon for every sort of bibliographical and educational assistance, but the fruits of their labor do not commonly push back the frontiers of human knowledge. The services of both are equally important in their own domain, but university libraries by and large seem to have slipped up at this crucial point of service. It is generally true that university libraries have by virtue of their associations the more valuable collections of books from a scholar's point of view. Even if this were not true, the scholar is apt to seek his information first among academic bowers. Hence any philosophy on the part of college librarians which does not envisage the unusual opportunities presented to aid in the advancement of knowledge is from every point of view unfortunate.

The writer does not mean to convey the impression that a philosophical view should be confined to the administrators of libraries. A firm grasp of principle should be present in the profession as a whole. The result is the cultivation of an attitude which perceives that small services well performed are necessary contributions to the whole. Such a point of view is a valuable corrective to sour

faces and human "robots" for which many reproach the profession.

There is every indication that the library profession is about to go in for much more research than heretofore. At this juncture a philosophy is indispensable. It may be a very good thing to make a careful study of the reading habits of the children of the Bloomsbury high school, but some Oxford don may come along when the study has been completed and ask "What of it?" "What does it prove?" Will the result be to stock the public library with more of the sort of literature the children like? But what if the reading propensities of the children are not sound from an educational point of view? Will the library then undertake to reform the reading habits of the children and educate them to something better? Where is the line of demarcation between the educative function of the school and the public library? These may be pertinent questions. Some one will have to ask them in order to give research work meaning and a proper setting. The mere doing of the research may yield something in the way of training and technique but the conclusions will sound hollow without a philosophy to back them up.

#### Display of Rare Books

A priceless heritage of rare books and manuscripts written in the dead languages of two ancient civilizations is on display at the Newberry library, Chicago, as part of the valuable acquisitions of 1930. Included in the collection are pages from a vellum manuscript bible printed in the middle of the fourteenth century, early Anglo-Saxon and Germanic printed pages, Greek and Latin books of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, facsimile of an Icelandic manuscript of a long-gone century, a rare edition of Aesop's fables which was published in 1485 at Naples, and an edition of the Greek psalter, printed by Aldus in 1497.

### Library Meetings

**Boston**—The Boston chapter of the Special Libraries association met at the Federal Reserve Bank on March 2. President Abbie G. Glover introduced the speaker of the evening, Roy A. Young, governor of the Federal Reserve Bank, who spoke on present day business conditions. At the conclusion of his talk the members discussed his subject. Herbert Brigham, Rhode Island state librarian and editor of *Special Libraries*, gave a brief talk on the magazine.

At the business meeting which followed, four persons were duly elected to membership. Attention was called to a pamphlet published recently by the Boston Elevated Railway library entitled "Bibliography on urban and interurban electric railways." Miss Dunning brought a word of greeting from the New York chapter and spoke of a bibliography on water transportation which they are about to publish.

ELIZABETH S. DOWNES  
Secretary

**Chapel Hill**—The professional education of Negro librarians was the subject of a conference held at the University of North Carolina, March 5. The high cost of library training and the relatively little demands in different fields of library service open to Negroes made it seem desirable to the Board of education for librarianship to hold an informal conference for a discussion of the problems involved.

Hampton Institute library school, which has specialized in the field of the college library, is the only accredited library school that is for the sole purpose of training Negro librarians. From its organization in 1925 to 1929, Hampton has graduated 37 students. Of this number 27 are college librarians; 2 high school librarians; and 2 are in public libraries. A few Negroes have attended other accredited library schools.

The fact that there are approximately 64 universities, colleges and normal training schools, 448 public and private high schools, and 53 public libraries in need of trained Negro librarians has been a factor in interesting several other Negro institutions in offering library training.

Sarah C. N. Bogle, secretary of the Board of education for librarianship, Charlotte Templeton, librarian of Greenville, South Carolina, and representatives of the Carnegie Corporation, General Education board, Rosenwald Fund, Atlanta University, Fisk University, and Hampton Institute library school attended the meeting.

**Chicago**—The meeting of the Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries association on January 26 was held at Hull House. It established an all-time record for attendance with more than 85 members present.

Jane Addams was the guest and speaker of the evening. She talked for about 45 minutes, visualizing the similarity of procedure in the work of the settlement worker and the special librarian. She explained the origin of Hull House, a few of its many accomplishments, how it is financed and something about the various nationalities in the location. After Miss Addams' talk three guides conducted the group thru Hull House. Such an interesting tour will remain for many years in the minds of those who were present.

BUENA LINDSAY  
Secretary

**Oklahoma**—The Oklahoma library association met in convention, February 6-7, at Oklahoma City. A most interesting program proved of material benefit to those in attendance.

Dr. W. B. Bissell, president of the University of Oklahoma, talked on the "Libraries of Europe." He had the pleasure of seeing the Gutenberg Bible in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris last summer, also the manuscript of the

Virgil Aeneid, with Plutarch's marginal notes in Milan. Plutarch's beautiful handwriting was used by the printers as a model for type in that day. May Frank talked about Oklahoma poets and novelists.

At a luncheon at the Sorosis club, the Association had as guests of honor, John M. Oskison, an Oklahoma novelist, who reminisced about the famous authors he has met; and Mrs. Altha Leah Bass who read several of her delightful poems. Dr. Wayne Campbell of the University of Oklahoma City entertainingly burlesqued a club woman reading a paper that a librarian had assisted in supplying material.

At the afternoon meeting, practical library problems and their solutions were discussed. A resolution deprecating the proposal to abolish the Oklahoma library commission was passed, also one on the death of George F. Southard. Resolutions of appreciation were made to Mrs. Charles Page who has endowed a library in Sand Springs as a memorial to her husband.

**Pasadena**—The library club met at the La Pintesca branch of the Public library, Pasadena, California, March 1.

Dr. Walter S. Adams, the president, called the meeting to order and presented Roy V. Sowers, of Pasadena, who spoke on "Some aspects of print collecting." Mr. Sowers has a charming shop and from his excellent collection of prints illustrated the history of lithography and of the allied arts. Following Mr. Sowers, and introduced by Helen Haines, the next speaker was Dr. Hill who delighted the club when he told of the first A. L. A. convention held in California.

The meeting adjourned to the large reading rooms where refreshments were served.

MRS. PATRICIA DUTCHER  
Secretary

#### District meetings in California

Spring in California produced a veritable epidemic of district meetings. The Sixth district met at Pomona College, Claremont, January 31, with an attendance of over 500. President Mrs. Frances B. Linn presided. The theme of the meeting was "Mexican backgrounds." Professor William Kirk of Pomona College gave a most scholarly and instructive address on "Cultural changes in Mexican life," and Druzilla Mackey of the Fullerton High School faculty spoke on "Present day education in Mexico," dwelling particularly on rural education there, which is most interesting. Professor Hartley Burr Alexander of Scripps College described "The Contemporary art and literature of Mexico," and at the close of the formal session the guests inspected the Dennison library of Scripps College, soon to be completed and dedicated. Happy features of the meeting were a telegram of greeting from State Librarian Mabel R. Gillis, personal greetings from Assistant State Librarian Eleanor Hitt, and an outline of the plans for the annual state meeting at Del Monte, charmingly given by President Mary Barmby.

The Fifth district met at Sacramento, February 7, under the leadership of President C. D. Provines. Miss Gillis welcomed the guests to Sacramento and Miss Hitt expressed her pleasure at being once more a member of the district. Miss Barmby told of the plans for the Del Monte meeting, especially stressing the "discussion groups" which were being planned. Margaret Young Lull, author of *Golden river* and other books for girls, spoke most charmingly on how she wrote a book, the actual building of it, step by step. Major John Matheson, author of *The Needle in the haystack*, told how it feels to be a U. S. Army engineer by day and the writer of nonsense stories by night. Mrs. Constance Mitchell of the Sather Gate Book Shop



in Berkeley told stories in her delightful fashion, closing a meeting which seemed all too brief.

The Ninth district had a progressive meeting, very enjoyable since the fruit blossoms which lined the highways made automobiling a wonderful treat. The meeting opened at Colusa the morning of February 14, with Mrs. Ella P. Morse and Emily Howard in charge. Miss Barmby greeted the members for the state organization and spoke interestingly of her discussion group projects as developed in Alameda County. Mrs. May D. Henshall of the State library discussed "Current legislative developments of interest to librarians." C. D. Provines talked on "A variety of creatures," concluding with the telling of several folktales. The meeting then progressed to Willows where an elaborate turkey dinner was served. Assistant State Librarian Eleanor Hitt gave an illustrated talk on "Visualizing county library work." Alice Anderson presented the "1931 phases of the industrial revolution," giving her experiences as state chairman of international relations for the American Association of university women. Hugh Bell, director of research and extension at the Chico State Teachers College, spoke on the "Psychologies of 1931." Tea was served by the Glenn County free library staff and the guests inspected the new and spacious quarters which the library occupies in the beautiful memorial building at Willows.

The Seventh district met in Eureka, February 21, with Edna Davis and Helen B. Bartlett in charge of arrangements. President Mary Barmby, the honored guest speaker, addressed the members on the "Standard radio broadcast and adult education." The meeting closed with an informal round table discussion of current library problems.

The Fourth district met at Merced, February 27. Minette Stoddard as President was in charge. Miss Barmby dis-

cussed "Adult education" as the theme of the year's program for the state organization. "Talks on modern poetry," by Alice Cooper of the Modesto Junior College faculty, and on "Russia, its handicraft and art," by Mrs. Violet B. Orr, rounded out a most enjoyable gathering.

The First district convened at San Francisco on March 7, with President Robert Rea and Secretary Helen M. Bruner directing the arrangements. State Librarian Mabel R. Gillis was happily able to leave her busy office and attend, to the delight of the members who were thus able to officially welcome her for the first time as State Librarian. Her talk on current developments in the work for the blind was greatly appreciated. George Creel of San Francisco, speaking on the "Nude in literature," made a plea for a cleansing of current literature, not by censorship, but by the teaching of literary taste in the homes. Mrs. Parker Maddux spoke on "Books in a changing world," stressing the need for usable public affairs books for women. Dr. George D. Lyman, author of *John Marsh*, pioneer, told of his interesting experiences in writing this book. Brother Leo, chancellor of St. Mary's College, gave an inspirational address on "The Eastern window," and the meeting closed with a charming talk by Gertrude Atherton.

The Third district meeting at Fairfield, March 14, finished the cycle of district gatherings, each different from the other and yet typical of the part of California in which it was held. President Edith Gantt presided. Mr. H. S. Foote, president of the San Rafael branch of the Bank of America, spoke interestingly on "Yesterdays in marvelous Marin." Spanish songs were given, in costume, by Rowene Thompson, and additional music was furnished by Emily Reese. Dr. Noel J. Breed, library trustee of Petaluma, described the "California history section in a small library," and



Vingie Roe gave a "Writer's personality talk."

HAZEL GIBSON LEEPER  
Secretary, C. L. A.

#### Coming meetings

The Alabama library association will meet at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, April 10-11.

The Columbian library association will hold its annual meeting at St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, April 11.

The annual meeting of the Louisiana library association will be held at Lake Charles, April 30-May 1.

The biennial meeting of the Georgia library association will be held at Twin Lakes Hotel, Valdosta, April 30-May 2.

The annual convention of the Special Libraries association will be held at Cleveland, Ohio, June 10-12.

The Pacific Northwest library association will meet at Gearhart, Oregon, June 15-17, with headquarters at the Gearhart Hotel.

The National Association of state libraries will meet in New Haven, Connecticut, at the same time as the A. L. A., June 22-27.

The annual meeting of the New Hampshire library association will be held at Hanover, September 9-11.

The 1931 meeting of the New York library association will be held at the Lake Placid club, September 21-26.

The Minnesota library association will meet at Faribault, October 8-10.

The Pennsylvania library association will hold its annual conference in Pittsburgh, October 20-23.

The Kansas library association will hold its 1931 convention, October 21-23, at Wichita.

The Illinois library association will meet in Peoria at the Pere Marquette, October 21-23.

#### Interesting Things in Print

The constitution and by-laws and the list of officers of the new Inter-American Bibliographical association (See p. 124) may be obtained from Ernest Kleutsch, secretary, Library of Congress.

A reference list on the subject of bakelite, containing a rather full survey of its technology, patents and industrial uses, has been prepared by J. K. Wilcox and issued by The John Crerar library. Free.

The Technology division of the Public library, Seattle, Washington, has issued an interesting "List of books on aeronautics." Their aeronautic collection, begun in June 1929, now contains more than 3,000 volumes.

The story of the work and progress of the Washington County free library at Hagerstown, Maryland, is interestingly presented by Mary Lemist Titcomb, librarian, in a booklet entitled "Washington County free library." A comparison of receipts and expenditures of the library in 10 year periods closes this attractive little book.

An interesting monograph of a series entitled *Careers*, by Walter J. Greenleaf, associate specialist in higher education, treats separately as a career Librarianship, Law, Architecture, Medicine, Mechanical, Civil, and Electrical Engineering with their opportunities, compensation, training, schools, and expenses. The series is issued by the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

The Mississippi Historical Society has published the *Life*, letters and papers of William Dunbar, pioneer scientist of the Southern states, a contemporary and correspondent of Thomas Jefferson and identified with the early exploration of the Red River of the South, in 1806. The volume based on reports and original letters was most ably edited for the National Society of Colonial Dames in America by Mrs. Dunbar Rowland.

United States reference publications, compiled by Jerome Kear Wilcox, associate reference librarian of The John Crerar library, Chicago, is No. 43 of the *Useful Reference Series* published by F. W. Faxon Company, Boston. It lists the most important of current reference compilations, handbooks, directories, etc., issued by the federal government, and contains two indexes: a general index and an index to directories. An annual supplement is contemplated possibly to be issued in the *Bulletin of Bibliographies*. (\$1.50).

It was inevitable that some time or another that a public library would figure in crime. Now it has happened! The *Murder in a library*, published by Dodd, Mead & Company, is just off the press. The scene of the story is laid in the Des Moines public library, and hinges upon the discovery that rare Americana have been stolen from the library safe. The author is Charles J. Dutton, a Unitarian minister in Des Moines. It is reported that Forrest B. Spaulding, librarian of the Des Moines public library, is enjoying the novel situation.

An extraordinary catalog of books, "The American catalogue," has been issued by W. & G. Foyles, London. It is the first of Foyles' American catalogs, with prices in American figures and for distribution only in the United States.

In the introduction is described the new First Edition Circle, recently inaugurated by Foyles to benefit those unable to devote much attention to the study of book collecting. The Circle chooses the most important new books which possess first edition value and sends them to the subscribers. If any subscriber disagrees with the Circle's choice, the volumes may be returned. Upon receipt of a deposit covering one-half of the amount the subscriber wishes to spend during the year, Foyles will begin their duties as literary advisers.

Unemployment and adult education, a symposium recently issued by the American Association for adult education, is a discussion of the problems of re-education, arising from unemployment due to the displacement of men in industry thru the introduction of machinery. The first seven articles in the volume formed the basis of discussion at a conference in December of educators attempting to define procedures in attacking technical unemployment thru local, state, and federal agencies.

Metal plate lithography for artists, by C. A. Seward, for a number of years a member of the board of directors of the City library, Wichita, Kansas, is among the interesting new books of specialized character published by Pencil Prints Press, Inc., New York City. It is a 72-page manual of the technique for the process of drawing on and printing from zinc and aluminum plates to produce lithographs. The text covers every angle of the subject from the graining and preparation of the plates to the completed process. Thumb-nail sketches show every step of the process. There are 20 plates by well-known lithographers. (\$3.50).

Safety programs and activities, by Florence Slown Hyde and Ruth Clara Slown, is a valuable contribution to safety training and instruction. Intended primarily for elementary and junior high schools, it is a book that could well be studied by parents, for many items contributing to safety of the more uncommon type as well as the more common hazards are discussed. The contents cover the organization of safety work in schools; programs for general exercises, safety club meetings, school assemblies, and classroom discussions. Special topics and programs are given for each month of the school year with programs for each week. Published by Beckley-Cardy Company, Chicago. (\$1.25).

### Books for Mexican Children

Thru the untiring efforts for the past few years of the Committee on books for the Lincoln library at Mexico City, Mexico, a collection of 100 children's books and over 50 picture books were prepared and shipped to the library. The first 100 books were secured chiefly thru gifts from publishers. The picture books were paid for by the Children's and School Libraries section of the American Library Association. The books were cataloged by the Western Reserve University library school, and each one had in it the Pamela Bianco bookplate of the section for work with children.

Senorita Manrique De Lara, librarian of the Lincoln library, expresses her appreciation of this valuable addition to the library in a letter to Annie Spencer Cutter, chairman of the Committee. Senorita De Lara said the inclusion of the picture books in the collection was an excellent idea since the Mexican child of grammar school age rarely speaks English. It is hoped that the books may very profitably be loaned in traveling units to the various libraries in connection with the Mexican schools, thereby being accessible to large numbers of younger children.

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Marie Ginsberg, economic librarian of the League of Nations since 1920 and professor of Economics and instructor in Library Science at the Social School for Women, Geneva, is coming to the United States to attend the fiftieth convention of the American Association of university women in Boston, April 6-11. She will remain in this country until July 1. While in the United States, Miss Ginsberg, who speaks English fluently, would welcome engagements to speak on the League library or related subjects. She may be addressed in care of Esther Caukin, Woman's University club, 106 East 52nd Street, New York City.

### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library school

The second semester opened February 11 with an enrollment of 53 students, of which 50 will complete the course in June, 1931.

On February 19, Carl Milam, secretary of the American Library Association, visited Pittsburgh and spoke to the students and the library staff about the work of the Association.

Effie L. Powers, director of work with children, Public library, Cleveland, Ohio, spoke to the students on February 26 on the topics: "Selection and care of book collections" and "Work with children in the Cleveland public library."

James I. Wyer, representing the A. L. A. Board of education for librarianship, inspected the School on March 12. The faculty and members of the library staff who attended New York State library school had an opportunity to meet Mr. Wyer at an informal tea late in the afternoon.

The class of 1930-1931 have announced the election of the following officers: President, Margaret Zenk, Youngstown, Ohio; vice-president, Rose Marie Statti, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; secretary-treasurer, Marjorie Carter, French Creek, West Virginia; year-book chairman, Fannie W. Millholland, Washington, D. C.; social chairmen, Roby Bair, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and Dorothy Burns, Millvale, Pennsylvania.

#### Appointments

Julliette Estep Campbell ('18), librarian, Public library, Swissvale, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Ellen Page Ringsdorf ('25) is organizing the library at Avon Old Farms School, Avon, Connecticut.

#### Marriages

Amena Pendleton ('05) and Oliver Sloan Haines were married on November 15, 1930, at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania.

FRANCES H. KELLY  
Associate director

## Pratt Institute

As previously noted, the Graduates' association voted at the annual meeting in January to take a sustaining membership in the A. L. A. The emptiness of the treasury, however, necessitated a special appeal to the graduate body which was sent out in the *News Letter*, the response to which has been prompt and generous. The class of 1931, following the precedent of its predecessors, has joined the A. L. A. 100 per cent strong.

The brief course in book binding was concluded by a visit to the Chivers Bindery in its new and specious quarters. There the processes verbally described gained reality under the most effective conditions.

The annual visit to the Morgan library was made on February 18. Owing to the fact that Mr. Stevens' course on printing has been given earlier than usual this year, the class was especially well prepared to appreciate the value of the monuments of the printing art there on display.

The class attended a symposium of negro writers and musicians, arranged by Miss Rose at the 135th Street branch of the New York public library on March 4. A varied program of great interest was presented.

The visiting lecturers during the month have been Carolyn F. Ulrich ('18), head of the Periodicals division, and Jennie M. Flexner, reader's adviser, New York public library, Isadore G. Mudge of Columbia, and Mary E. Hall of the Girls' high school, Brooklyn.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE  
Vice-director

## Simmons College

The second term of the school year has just finished, and after the Spring vacation the students will spend two weeks in field work in libraries of many types.

During the term we have had a number of visitors, among them Winifred

Gregory who talked on "The Adventures of a bibliographer" and gave most interesting accounts of some of her experiences abroad during her work on the "List of serial publications of foreign governments."

Clarence E. Sherman of the Providence public library has given us a series of six talks on "Library buildings." William Alcott, librarian of the *Boston Globe*, spoke of the "Problems of a newspaper library." Daniel Bliss, the associate minister of the Old South Church, Boston, has enriched the Book selection course by a most interesting talk on "Religious books."

Miss Blunt represented the School at the Massachusetts library club meeting in Springfield, and Miss Donnelly attended the Atlantic City meeting.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY  
Director

## Summer schools

The summer session of 1931 of Simmons College library school, Boston, Massachusetts, opens on July 6 and closes August 14. Courses in Book selection, Classification, Reference, and School libraries will be given by Professors Donnelly, Brotherton, and Blunt. Additional information may be secured from the School.

The 1931 summer session of the Department of Library Science of the University of Michigan will be held June 29-August 21. Following the custom of several years, the School is specializing in the work of the second year, with courses in Library administration. The administration courses will be given by Professors Joeckel and Goodrich. Additional information may be secured by addressing William W. Bishop, librarian of the University.

At the 1931 summer session, June 29-August 7, the San Jose State College, California, will offer the following courses in Librarianship: Elementary

and advanced cataloging, Reference, School libraries, Work with children, Children's literature, Teaching the use of the library, and Library organization and administration. These courses are accredited by the State Board of Education for the special credential in librarianship. Susan T. Smith of the Berkeley public library will give six lectures on public library work; Mary Barmby of the Alameda County library will give a series of lectures on county libraries; and Helen Price of the University high school, Oakland, will give two lectures on the care and use of ephemeral material.

Eight library courses will be given at the University of Oregon summer session, Eugene, June 22 to July 31. Mrs. Mabel E. McClain, circulation librarian, will give a course in Book selection; and E. Lenore Casford, periodical librarian, will give courses in Elementary reference work, Children's literature, and Library work with children. Miss Casford will also give her course in Children's literature at the post session, August 3-28, which includes a 12 days' cruise to Alaska.

The visiting instructors will be Marion Horton, formerly principal of the Los Angeles library school, who will give one course in the Administration of school libraries and one in Books for school libraries. Della J. Sisler of the University of California library school will give a course in Classification and subject headings and one in Cataloging.

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A special study of the system of classification and cataloging employed by the Teachers College library at Columbia University has recently been made by Margaret Mann, associate professor of Library Science, University of Michigan. A report of her survey has been transmitted to the dean of Teachers College,

and the library anticipates an early beginning on necessary revision work.

### Sul Ross State Teachers' College Library

Since the opening of the Sul Ross State Teachers' College, Alpine, Texas, in June, 1920, the library has been housed in the Administration building. It first occupied the space intended for a lecture room. In the course of time this became unbearably small and an adjoining room was taken in and used for the stack room. Thirteen thousand volumes of books, bound periodicals, duplicate periodicals, bulletins, supplies, etc., were crowded into this space of 21 by 80 feet. (These two rooms continued to serve until the present library building was completed.)

The library now occupies the top floor of the library building. The reading room is 130 feet long and 34 feet wide. The periodical room is 34 feet wide and 30 feet long with a wide opening and glassed walls to appear as a part of the reading room. The children's room is identical but at the opposite end of the reading room and it also has the appearance of being a part of the reading room.

The stack room will accommodate 48,000 volumes. In addition there are the cataloger's office, library science room, work room, librarian's office, and the bibliography room.

The library was moved October 27, 1930. As there were no funds to pay for the labor, the student body and faculty volunteered to move the library. The Industrial Arts department made 25 troughs on which to carry the books. Each trough was carried by two persons and held exactly as many volumes as a shelf. In this manner the books were moved shelf by shelf and placed where they should be. More than 500 trips were necessary to make the transfer and it required six hours.

FAY HAMILTON  
Librarian



### Department of School Libraries

*"Books are an invitation to share the most intimate thoughts of the rarest spirits of all ages."*

#### Adventures in Reading for Young People

Helen E. Haines

There seems little place for this subject nowadays, when all librarians have at their elbows May Lamberton Becker offering adventures in and opening windows upon books. This subject is one that she has presented so delightfully and usefully that I fear it cannot be set forth from any novel angle. But of course every adventurer treads a path of his own, even in familiar regions. I can only point out a few pathways that seem to me to offer pleasure and enrichment in young people's reading.

This brings us to "the problem of stimulating recreational reading thru required reading." I do not know what stimulating recreational reading thru required reading really means—and I hope I never shall. These terrible words from the library mind would blight any spirit. Elasticity can be regained only by banishing them to limbo. But it is to counteract the feeling of many public librarians who have the deadly attitude—"Oh, the children won't read anything they are not assigned"—that we are going to consider the possibilities of pleasant adventures in reading.

But I have been an adventurer in reading all my life—tho never conscious of present-day distinctions in kind. Ebers' *Uarda* fitted in simply and naturally with Maspéro; Shakespeare's plays were bone of the bone of English history. De La Motte Fouqué's *Thiodolf* the Iclander cast a rainbow of romance over the mighty figures of the Varangian guards as they loomed in Gibbon's chapters on Constantinople and in that novel of Walter Scott that no one born since 1900 ever heard of, *Count Robert of Paris*. Like

Molière's worthy bourgeois who finds that he has spoken prose all his life without knowing it, I suspect that for a similar length of time I have been carrying on the process of "stimulating recreational reading thru acquired reading."

Surely the best influence is the unconscious one: the influence that seems to rise from the ego's self, tho it may be, often is, the germinating of an implanted kernel of interest or inquiry. That is why books that are apparently discovered for oneself—not stiffened and chilled by having been long set aside in the educational refrigerator for required consumption—possess almost always a lure of individual adventure for the young mind that makes their influence deeper and more lasting and gives a richer savor to their quality. Required, formalized reading of the classics has forever deprived much great and beautiful literature of the influence it should have had in the later intellectual life of intelligent men and women.

Today the stream of current literature pours out so much that is invigorating, fresh, and alluring in all the old channels of thot and in many new ones, that in library and school work—related or independent—there are unnumbered opportunities to set young minds upon independent adventuring that will bring back unlooked-for reward. It seems that some indication of this adventuring in specific example might give more suggestion and awaken more interest than a generalized exposition.

So, from the familiar paved highway of study subjects or reading assignments along which our present-day young people are educationally regimented and propelled, let us consider some of the hidden bypaths and unexpected cross-

ways whence sudden vistas open—fresh, illuminated, far-beckoning—upon the great regions traversed by the dusty main-travelled road.

The accompanying list really furnishes the body of this exposition and commentary. Look it over in a superficial glance, and I am sure you will think it a hodge-podge with little relationship to any systematic development of young people's reading. But it is a rather subtle list with a definite purpose. It is designed to make enjoyable and desirable—which I suppose is what we mean by "recreational"—books that relate closely to or branch out from such required and standard subjects as literature, English, ancient history, medieval history, American history, geography, science, and sociology.

Note the first group on the list, which I have called "Companions to adventure." That is because these five books are not only stimulating accompaniments or by-products of required study in English and of required reading in English literature, but that they in themselves help to instill appreciation and understanding of literature—style, values, imaginative content—that will enrich all reading in other fields.

Every intelligent boy or girl of junior college age—even advanced high school students—ought to have a chance to make acquaintance, not as a task or study but as an unusual and entertaining adventure, with Dr. Fowler's repository of humor, commonsense, and erudition which masks itself so thoroly under the forbidding title, *A dictionary of modern English usage*. I have a suspicion that many librarians, many teachers, are still to enjoy this personal adventure. I recommend it to every one who has any interest in or relation to books and reading. Perhaps you have thot of this unpretentious volume as useful only in relation to speech and writing—grammatical construction, pronunciation, and so on. Not so. It imparts the elements

of literary appreciation and understanding of crudities, vulgarisms, cheap mannerisms in literary expression. Suggest to any quick-minded boy or girl wrestling with theme, book report or class address that they should browse a bit in Fowler, and indicate half a dozen headings that will repay consideration. Here are a few: Battered ornaments, didacticism, hackneyed phrases, novelese, stock phrases. There are many more. Discover them for yourself and jot them down to set in the pathway of young people who are capable of exploring such byways for themselves.

Fowler on "Pedantic humor," on "Love of the long word" should be instilled into every orator, every welcomer of library conventions, every professional or lay platform performer. It is all keen, pungent, witty, simple enough for any intelligent young reader, but, of course, particularly to be indicated for the boy or girl suffering from the "literary" virus and prone to experimenting in prose or verse.

Of the other suggestions in this group, De La Mare's *Henry Brocken* is the gloss of imagination and beauty on required reading in English, for the young mind that is capable of unusual poetic response, that can come, or has come, under the spell of great literature—this lovely chronicle of the adventuring of young Henry Brocken who mounted the ancient nag Rosinante and rode away across the moorland into the strange and wonderful land of romance where he encountered famous figures of legend, song, and story, from Jane Eyre and Gulliver to Cressida and Annabel Lee.

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Glance now down a few bypaths that may be opened from the highroad of history. In vivid, sweeping synthesis. Parsons' *Stream of history* encompasses the whole expanse, illuminating past and present and inviting to closer individual exploration.

Ancient history is opened in Wooley's graphic study of *The Sumerians*, with its building up of ancient Mesopotamian civilization in structural law and organization—so curiously in parallel to our own day. For Greece, here is *Arrogance*, Couperus' brilliant, pictorial, opulent narrative of Xerxes, the invasion of Greece, Thermopylae, and Salamis. It is a striking and beautiful book in its physical quality; it should arrest the attention of young readers of more advanced mental development and open an adventure into the magic world of classic literature. For I cannot see how any boy or girl who had read or even dipped into this narrative could resist the power and beauty of Aeschylus' account of the battle of Salamis in his drama "The Persians." That drama is woven into Couperus' book; and *Arrogance* should send any reader at once to the great original—so memorable and unique in literature as "the first account of a great piece of history by a great poet who had himself helped to make the history." And here also belongs Naomi Mitchison's *Black Sparta*, with its picturing of ancient Greek life, harsh and modern in its realism, never glossing the lot of the slave and the woman, but enriching and strengthening the reader's mental background. For Rome, Barrington's *The Laughing queen* is delightful to any young reader in its romantic, dra-

matic portrayal of Cleopatra—somewhat sentimentalized, but a valid, indeed an almost literal transference of Weigall's *Life of Cleopatra*.

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Indeed, tho it is perhaps not so directly linked with required reading in school subjects, the biographic bypath leads to adventuring that will stimulate ambition, instil subtly purpose of achievement, or enlarge the vision of life. Such adventuring opens from Finger's *Seven horizons*, and from Schumann-Heink's magnetic radiation of her life experience.

From stolid plodding along charted courses in geography, science, and sociology, you may let bypaths open into absorbing discovery and fascinating personal experience thru wise suggestion of

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books that reveal new perspectives on familiar horizons. There is the adventure of William Beebe's glittering under-sea world, with its giant sponges, its amorous sea urchins, its coral forests and flower beds—an adventure and at the same time an authentic vista of marine biology and oceanography. There is Delia Akeley's hunting trip with Pygmies, her affectionate, first-hand acquaintance with gorillas, her nights and days in the mysterious African jungle—human experience in pursuit of anthropology and zoölogy. The vista of prehistory—the quest for the cradle of man, the tracing of earliest forms of animal life—takes shape and becomes realizable for the boy or girl who follows Roy Andrews' adventuring to The Ends of the earth, or who is launched upon Dr. Merriam's volume, *The Living Past*, with its glimpses of the adventure that lies in geological and paleontological research.

Indeed, our list opens more adventuring than allotted space permits me to point out. The achievements of Byrd in the Antarctic have captured the imagination of almost every American boy and girl. Suggest to them the further adventuring, the deepened and unforgettable experience, they may share in that great narrative, *The Worst Journey in the World*, by Apsley Cherry-Garrard. That unified record of the Scott Expedition holds in synthesis and in detail the whole great epic, the individual heroic adventure, of polar exploration; its ideal, loyalty and comradeship; its sacrifices; its thrill of scientific purpose.

Adventure of a different kind that should convey to any boy the same thrill that lies in Antarctic daring and peril is E. J. Pratt's narrative in verse, *The Roosevelt and the Antinoo*, which tells the story of the fierce Atlantic storm of January, 1925, and the rescue of the men of the freighter "Antinoo" by Captain Fried of the steamer "Roosevelt"

and his crew. It is graphic, detailed, an epic of the sea, of courage, ingenuity and devotion, for the boy or youth who demands adventure in terms of modern experience.

The bypaths that open from my list point to still other and varied regions: to vistas of Mexico in Carleton Beals' *Brimstone and Chili*, a vagabond experience of privation and endurance that seems to me one of the present-day classics for boy readers; to tropic India, in Waldemar Bonsel's poetic, sympathetic companionship with animals and human beings. It seems to me that the dull surface of sociology is concealed by the gayly caparisoned American band wagon; surely an entertaining side trip can be made here, offering entertaining glimpses of economics, social customs, conditions and accessories of the life we all know, to be recognized and considered by young minds that will encounter them in more solemn presentation elsewhere. And our own immediate California past, its historic color and quaint folklore, opens in the pathway recently broken by Mr. Saunders and Father O'Sullivan which you may follow in *Capistrano Nights*. Try it for some young explorer. It offers more reward of understanding and truth than may be gained by following most of the gaily painted signposts that advertise the romantic road to California's past.

But how are young people to be brought to these adventurings? In the first place, you must have the spirit of adventure yourself or you cannot make its lure evident to others. Also there must be discrimination and good taste in your own knowledge and use of books. Remember always the growing extent and variety of the field; the change in attitude toward subjects once that unsuitable for the young. Young people today are interested in, responsive to, more and more different subjects than ever before. It does not seem to me that

they are childish, as so many adults think; or at least the childishness is of far shorter duration. Keep close track of reviews of new books, examine and dip into as many as you can. And I would add, never recommend or even suggest a book that you do not know or that at least has not made evident to you its appeal to some young mind. A dull adventure that has been a disappointing fiasco leaves your young reader distrustful and unresponsive toward another attempt.

The spirit in which a book is written should always have consideration. It should not be "written down" to an assumed childish level. But I would deprecate undue cynicism, flippancy, harshness, undue emphasis on the grim, the cruel, the ugly. These are for maturity. But the sugary and the commonplace are even more undesirable, for their steady consumption will kill appreciation of the original and the distinctive. Remember always the intelligence, the development of modern youth, and think what you can do in setting their minds at work upon the modern world.

And remember again that you cannot choose or direct reading for others if you do not know books widely and well. Read, browse, dip into the ever moving current of new books, remember and use the older books, constantly draw bits of information to your aid, hints of new pastures, suggestion of book relationships and possible linkage of subjects. For example the book on the great chemists, *Crucibles*, will be instantly and obviously seized upon as an illuminant for science study. But there is Denys Reitz' splendid narrative of the Boer War, *Commando*. Can that be linked to modern history? I don't know, but I should try to make the connection. Master and use the stores, the suggestions, that lie in the many delightful books about books. Glean all you can from the library itself, from word-of-mouth re-

ports, from echoes of book discussions and book meetings.

Books are the paths to adventure; they are the vitalizing currents that reach and transform the insulated life. To use them as they can be used—as adventure, as currents of vital living—is, I hope, to solve, what was it?, "the problem of stimulating recreational reading thru required reading."

### Suggestions for Adventures in Reading

#### *Companions to Adventure*

De La Mare, Walter. Henry Brocken  
Erskine, John. The delight of great books  
Fowler, H. W. A dictionary of modern English usage  
Rogers, R. E. The fine art of reading  
Walpole, Hugh. Reading: an essay

#### *Adventures in History and Biography*

Barrington, E. The laughing queen  
Benet, S. V. John Brown's body  
Bercovici, Konrad. The story of the gypsies  
Boyd, James. Long hunt  
Couperus, Louis. Arrogance  
Ferber, Edna. Cimarron  
Finger, Charles. Seven horizons  
Lamb, Harold. The crusades  
Lawton, Mary. Schumann-Heink, last of the Titans

Linderman, F. B. American: life-story of a great Indian

Parsons, Geoffrey. The stream of history  
Roberts, E. M. The great meadow  
Standing-Bear, Luther. My people, the Sioux  
Woolley, C. L. The Sumerians

#### *Adventures in Travel, Science, and Sociology*

Akeley, Delia. Jungle portraits  
Andrews, R. C. Ends of the earth  
Beals, Carleton. Brimstone and chili  
Beebe, William. Beneath tropic seas  
Bonsels, Waldemar. An Indian journey  
Gilfillan, A. B. Sheep  
Cherry-Garrard, A. The worst journey in the world  
Merriam, J. C. The living past  
Merz, Charles. The great American bandwagon  
Pratt, E. J. The Roosevelt and the Antioch  
Saunders & O'Sullivan. Capistrano nights  
Williamson, Henry. Tarka the otter

**N**ARROWNESS of knowledge, narrowness of sympathy, narrowness of understanding, narrowness of conviction are the marks of that insulated life from which there is no escape save over the bridge which liberal education builds.

—Nicholas Murray Butler

### Reading Interests of High School Pupils

A report of the reading interests of the Medford, Oregon, high school pupils may prove of interest and value to high school librarians. Check lists, arranged in three sections, were sent to all the pupils in the English classes. The problem was started in order to find out which of the magazines in the high school library were being used the most; if the difference in age groups would call for any great difference in the type of magazines; and if the students were really interested in this type of reading material. The questionnaires were answered by 615 students.

The first section dealt with "Types of Literature"—essays, drama, poetry, inventions, and science. All the students seem to enjoy certain types of literature such as fiction, history, biography, and travel. The boys freely state that fiction would not be their first choice. Girls show more interest in poetry and essays than boys. This holds good in all of the classes. On the other hand the boys show a decided interest in inventions, with age interests showing up very decidedly in stories with a scientific interest. The pupils stated that they were interested in the additional types of literature—aviation, detective, mystery, war, and sea stories. These were listed by both boys and girls, while myths and legends, nature, and home stories were named by the girls.

In the second section of the questionnaire dealing with "Types of Stories," the differences were less marked, with the exception of stories of love which seemed to appeal more strongly to the girls. For example only 13 freshman boys read love stories while 48 girls seem to enjoy them.

All thru the report it seems that the sophomores are doing less reading than the other classes but, when a check was made of the average number of maga-

zines read by the individuals of the various classes, the results were found to be as follows: freshmen 13, sophomores 8, juniors 13, seniors 8.

A list of 42 magazines was given the pupils to check, and the results show a variation of interests. The boys show a preference for mechanical magazines, while the girls lead in reading those which deal mostly with fiction. The upper classes show the results of the use of current history magazines in the social science department. A large number read the travel magazines, also such magazines as *Mentor* and *Harpers*.

### May Day—National Child Health Day

The governors of 48 states, Porto Rico, and Hawaii, and mayors of many cities have for some years issued proclamations on May Day—National Child Health Day. Special emphasis this year is placed on the findings of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection which have been expressed in the 19 fundamental points adopted by the conference and known as the Children's Charter. Copies of the suggested program may be obtained upon request, as well as a leaflet containing a list of publications and posters suitable for libraries, which may be purchased for prices varying from 5 to 35 cents. Address American Child Health association, 450 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

A new book that should prove of value to every grammar and high school student, to every U. S. History instructor, is Everything you want to know about the presidents, by Auburn S. Cunningham. Besides containing thousands of facts not easily found heretofore concerning the presidents, vice-presidents, cabinet members, parties, elections, etc., it has the last state census, the last changes in the electoral college and the latest appointment in Hoover's cabinet. (McClurg \$1)

### News from the Field East

Dorothy B. Eaton (Simmons '28) has recently accepted a position as cataloger at the Boston Athenaeum.

Mrs. Beatrice L. Fisher (Simmons '19) is now an assistant in the City library, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Chloe Constantine (Simmons '30) has been appointed an assistant in the City library, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Dorothy S. Dennen (Simmons '30) has accepted the position of assistant in the Park Street branch of the Hartford public library.

Yale University library has received as a gift from Robert Borthwick Adams of Buffalo the most complete John Ruskin collection in the United States. It includes not only original copies of the author's principal works from the earliest to the latest, but also such pieces as occasional addresses, rare pamphlets, and unique copies. Many of the first editions are illustrated with Ruskin's own etchings.

### Central Atlantic

Sarah Burdick (Simmons '29) has accepted the position of librarian of the Lansingburgh High School library, Lansingburgh, New York.

Sarah Louise Grose (Simmons '30) has been appointed librarian of the Demonstration School library at the New Jersey State Teachers College, New Brunswick.

The Jennie Morrison Memorial library at Philipsburg, Pennsylvania, which is located in the senior high school building, was dedicated and opened to the public on February 27.

Eleanor M. Dye (N. Y. S. '13) has been appointed general assistant in the Teachers College library, Columbia University. Miss Dye has been librarian of Detroit Teachers College since 1922.

The Municipal Museum of Arts and Sciences, New York, has acquired the valuable library and entomological collection—comprising 15,000 specimens—of the naturalist, Richard Lohrmann.

John B. Fogg (Drexel '26) has resigned his position as directing librarian of the Free public library, New Brunswick, New Jersey, to succeed Elizabeth H. Wesson as librarian of the Free library, Orange, N. J.

The private library of the late Professor Alexander Evgenievich Presnikov of the University of Leningrad, recognized as one of the foremost of contemporary Russian historians, has been purchased by Columbia University. It consists of 3,600 volumes and 2,200 copies of periodicals.

A library room, with entrances on both the station platforms and the waiting room, is included in the new Erie Railroad station at Montclair, New Jersey. This branch library will provide service to commuters when they leave Montclair in the morning and return in the evening. Such a branch will be one of the first examples in the United States of such co-operation between a public service corporation and a public library.

### Central

Mabel Willets has been appointed librarian of Mercer Township free public library, Aledo, Illinois.

Nell Thornton, librarian of the Public library, Pontiac, Illinois, since its opening in 1894, died March 5 after a brief illness.

Mrs. Cecelia Menger, cataloger at the Public library, Elkhart, Indiana, assumed a similar position in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 1.

Lily Koivisto (Mich. '27) of the Grand Rapids public library has been appointed children's librarian at the Peter White public library, Marquette, Michigan.